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AGAWAM

Advertiser • NEWS

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Volume XIX Number 8

"Your Hometown Newspaper"

February 22, 1996

WestBank Opens Branch At Supermarket

WESTBANK



WESTBANK OFFICIALS held Grand Opening ceremonies on Saturday, February 17th at their new branch inside the Edward's Food Warehouse in Chicopee. The prominent local bank is continuing to expand its many services to residents throughout the area. RELATED PHOTOS IN SPOTLIGHT ON BUSINESS. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Southgate Merchants Hail New Tenant



MERCHANTS AT THE SOUTHGATE SHOPPING PLAZA on Suffield Street are delighted with the recent announcement that Geissler's SuperMarket of Connecticut is opening a new store in the space previously occupied by Big Y. The store is scheduled to open late this summer and give back to the plaza a much-needed anchor store. AT LEFT, owners of Surprise! Card & Gift, Bob & Barbara McElligott; at right, Don Sorel, owner of Southgate Liquors. RELATED PHOTOS IN SPOTLIGHT ON BUSINESS. Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.

Union Raises Passed... AFD Training OK'd

Crowded Field For ZBA Alternate Sees Mrs. Curtis Voted In

by Kathy Cassanelli
News Editor

At its February 20th meeting, Town Council approved funding for union contracts, agreed to pay expenses for firefighters in training, moved one step closer to cleaner treebelts, and elected a new member to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

After two recesses and five deadlocked ballots, Debra S. Curtis was elected to a three-year term as an alternate member of the Zoning Board of Appeals.

An unsuccessful candidate for School Committee in the fall election, Mrs. Curtis beat out real estate agent David Modzeleski in a 6-4 vote.

The field of three candidates narrowed to two when John M. Stacy withdrew his name after the second ballot. Stacy is the owner and operator of Stacy's Insurance Agency in Feeding Hills.

In her letter of interest to the council, Mrs. Curtis stated, "I'm willing to learn the ropes by surrounding myself with the proper tools and information necessary to be worthy of this particular job. I'm fair. I listen and I make decisions based on fact."

Voting for Mrs. Curtis were Councilors Dennis Perry, Jill Simpson, David Skolnick, Gary Suffriti, George Bitzas, and council President Nancy Thompson.

Voting for Modzeleski were Councilors Christian Quatrone, Kent Servis, Edward Caba, and Joseph Langone.

Councilor Thomas Ennis was absent.

In other business, the 10 councilors present gave unanimous approval to pay raises recently negotiated with five unions representing municipal employees, including police officers, nurses, clerical and public works employees, and department heads and supervisors.

Of the eight unions representing municipal employees, five have agreed to a three-year contract running from July 1, 1995 to June 30, 1998. Negotiations have been ongoing since mid-1995, and the employees have been working without a contract for eight months. The pay raise will be retroactive.

SEE COUNCIL - Page 2...

Leonard House Seeks Many New "Friends"

February is "Friends Month" at the Captain Charles Leonard House, Agawam's most historic home, located in Agawam Center next to Westfield Savings Bank.

The Captain Charles Leonard House was built in 1805 and is on the National Historic Register. The Leonard House serves as a community meeting facility for many clubs and organizations, as well as for private functions, and is operated by a board of trustees comprised of members of the community.

Donations are being sought to maintain the historic beauty and charm of this important community facility. Become a "Friend of the Leonard House" today. Send your donation to the Captain Charles Leonard House, 663 Main Street, Agawam, 01001.

COUNCIL - from Page 1...

The five unions have accepted the same cost of living adjustments accepted by the town's teachers in September. Over the three years of the new contracts, salaries will increase a total of nine percent. In the first year (fiscal year 1996), the increase will be two percent; in the subsequent years, the increase will be 3.5 percent.

Negotiations are still ongoing between the town and the three unions representing police supervisors, firefighters, and building maintenance employees, and are expected to be completed in the spring.

With Suffriti as the sole dissenter, the council voted 9-1 in favor of transferring \$4,000 to cover meals and travel expenses for three firefighters in training at the academy in Stow.

Suffriti said he was happy that the firefighters are receiving the training, but urged the council not to support the transfer request because the process was flawed.

"It is my understanding that they've been there in training for three weeks. They must already have the money," Suffriti said. "Let the Mayor find the money some place else."

The second reading of the ordinance requiring property owners to keep their treebelts mowed and clear of trash and debris passed with a vote of 9-1.

Caba voted no to both the ordinance and an amendment exempting property being used for agricultural or horticultural purposes.

Caba said he had received many phone calls from people "justifiably concerned" over the measure.

"This is just another thing for them to be shackled with. It should go down," Caba said.

Ms. Thompson said the town's new health agent would do everything he could to assist in enforcing the ordinance.

Ms. Thompson said she had received a call from a property owner concerned that she might be penalized for the carelessness of others.

"Enforcement should be on the real perpetrators if it's neighbors not keeping their property clean," Ms. Thompson said.

Check our classified pages

State Agency Downplays Importance Of Referendum On Power Plant

by Kathy Cassanelli
News Editor

The hot button issue of last fall's mayoral and town council elections, whether or not to place a non-binding question on the ballot relative to the Berkshire Power proposal, may have been much ado about nothing, according to a key state agency.

In the hearing before the State Department of Public Utilities Energy Facilities Siting Board (EFSB), power plant opponents were told that the board cannot base its decision to approve a power plant proposal on the results of a public opinion poll.

EFSB Hearing Officer Robert Rasmussen said, "Our statute does not allow us to base the siting of a power plant on a local referendum."

Rasmussen said the board has three areas to consider: the need for the plant, the environmental impacts of the plant, and the cost of the electricity produced.

"Public opinion is considered only to the extent that we use it as basis for questioning of the company and for the possible mitigation of local impacts, but is not a balancing factor that we can legally use for the purposes of our decision."

Rasmussen said, according to a transcript of the February 7th session.

Rasmussen said it was not relevant to the issues before the board whether Berkshire Power was opposed to the referendum or whether the company conducted a poll on the electability of candidates in the election.

Four city councilors who voted against the referendum on the Berkshire Power project felt the sting of ballot box retribution in the November election. Incumbents James Taylor and Robert Danie lost their seats while council President Nancy Thompson and Councilor George Bitzas slipped in their standings with the voters.

Ms. Thompson fell from first in the 1993 election to 11th place; Bitzas slid from third to eighth place.

All six top vote-getters either supported the power plant referendum as councilors or voiced their support during the campaign.

The six frontrunners were Councilors Gary Suffriti, David Skolnick, Jill Simpson, Dennis Perry, Edward Caba, and Joseph Langone.

Agawam Democrats To Caucus On March 2nd For Delegates To Attend State Convention

The Agawam Democratic Committee will hold a caucus on Saturday, March 2, 1996 at 2:00 p.m. in the community room at the Police Station on Springfield Street, Feeding Hills.

Delegates will be elected to attend the

Massachusetts Democratic Convention at Worcester on June 1, 1996.

You must be a registered Democrat as of February 14, 1996 to run. Democrats that wish to run must be in attendance promptly at 2:00 p.m.

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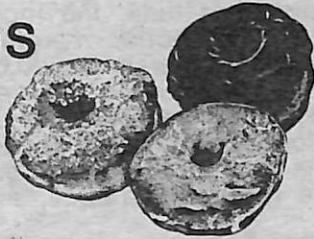


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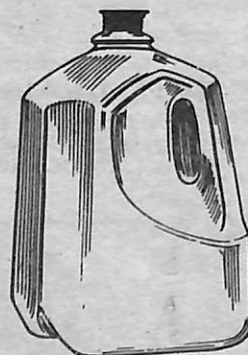
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Area Girl Scouts Remember Soldiers On Valentine's Day

To The Editor:

In conjunction with area girl scout troops from Agawam and Feeding Hills and the Social Planning Committee at Holyoke Community College, Valentine cards were made for the soldiers at the Veteran's Administration Hospital in Leeds and the Holyoke Soldier's Home.

About 500 Valentine cards were collected from the troops and the college community and delivered on Valentine's Day by HCC staff. Once they were collected from the troops, we presented the cards to the Committee.

Many thanks to the girls for their beautiful cards and remembering our soldiers on Valentine's Day.

Respectfully submitted by
Deborah Golas, member of the HCC Social
Planning Committee, and Leslie Young,
leader of Troop No. 556

Give Credit Where Credit Is Due Regarding Our Schools

To The Editor:

During the last couple of months, I have been reading some very negative letters about the Agawam School System.

Well, my wife and I would like to express our thanks and gratitude to the teachers, administrators, Guidance, and the Department of Social Services for their sincere effort to give my children a respectable education.

Working closely with these people or departments has been a pleasure. We may not have all the books we need or maybe a few classes are overcrowded, but I don't feel my children are being neglected.

I agree, some things are not just perfect, but at least we can give credit where credit is due.

Pat & Roland Roberts, Jr.
Feeding Hills

Agawam Schools Have Yet To Disappoint F. Hills Resident

To The Editor:

My family and I moved into Agawam two years ago. Our first interaction with the community at large was through the public schools. Having lived in New York and Maryland, we were immensely pleased with the warmth, openness, and the willingness to meet the needs of our children that the faculty, the staff, and the other students demonstrated.

In all respects, we have found Agawam schools to be superior to others we have experienced. We have been in every way impressed with the diligence teachers, principals, and support staff have shown. Our kids are currently enrolled at Granger and the Junior High, and our oldest child finished his sixth grade year at the Middle School when we came to town. Every interaction our

family has had with every one of the teachers, principals, and other staff has been strongly positive.

As any good parent would do, I found time in my schedule to support the schools. I came forward to serve on the Junior High School Improvement Council. It takes one evening a month, along with a little thought and some occasional reading. If parents want to improve the school system, it seems to me that the way to accomplish that is to volunteer for the councils, the P.T.O.'s, or other opportunities as they arise. Through those avenues, parents can assist the school professionals in the education and development of our community's children.

To me, the whole point of serving on a council is to find ways to assist the professionals Agawam has hired in carrying out the programs they have devised. It is not our job to micromanage what goes on in any classroom. We have an educated and professional group called teachers who do their best with precious little in the way of support from far too many parents.

If I find that my kids are not meeting my academic expectations, I sit down with them, read the chapter, and give them some extra work. I have listened to complaints about what one teacher or another gives or does not give for homework. If I wanted to set policies for what happens in a classroom, I would get my degree, get my certification, and get a job in the system.

But that is not my job. So, instead of criticizing, or writing to the newspapers, or organizing a watchdog group, I just put in some time with my kids and check in with their teachers to find out what else I can do to help. I have never run into anyone who has failed to return my call. I have yet to see any teacher in the system just come in for the paycheck and do as little as possible to get it. Instead, I have met, time after time, the most dedicated, caring, concerned collection of professionals I have ever run across. Agawam should be proud of its teachers and supportive of their efforts. In speaking with them, I have discovered that they often spend four hours a night correcting papers or putting in volunteer time with our children. These people deserve gratitude, not criticism.

If I have been disappointed with anything in Agawam, it is in the way some School Committee members, City Councilors, and members of the public at large have treated the people who have dedicated their lives to education.

As part of my service on the Junior High Council, I have had the opportunity to meet with the Superintendent on two occasions, both joint meetings of council and P.T.O. members. I have found Mr. Ryder to be open to suggestion and far more patient in the face of criticism than I would be.

I have watched some of the School Committee meetings on television. I have watched while Mr. Ryder has been treated rudely by at least one School Committee member, badgering him for information which he did not happen to have on hand. Rudeness does not earn my respect with dignity and manners. I respect that. I have listened to a City Councilor call students idiots.

My kids are not idiots. That comment will not be forgotten. And I have read letters and articles until I am sick of it, all saying negative things about everything and everyone from Mr. Ryder on down. Until some of the critics show me they can get through college, get certified, and get a job, I would rather not have them interfering with what the professionally trained and certified faculty try to accomplish. I have admired and trusted all of the teachers my children have been with in Agawam so far, and I see no reason to believe that the situation will suddenly change when they reach high school.

Next year, my oldest son will be a student at the High School. I understand the high school has its problems. I am not aware of one that does not

have problems. I have read a letter complaining about violence, drug abuse, and academic complacency. If my children misbehave in school, they will have to answer to me. They will be sorry the day I find they have shown disrespect to a teacher.

If, God forbid, they should get involved with something as hideous as drugs or alcohol or tobacco, they will have to answer to me. Poor behavior and bad habits are problems for parents to control. It mystifies me why anyone would write to the newspaper to complain about teachers or administrators when it is clear that it is parents who have failed to guide and discipline their children. When my kids go wrong, I do not blame the schools. It is my fault. Period.

Many parents quietly contribute their time and talents in positive and helpful ways in cooperation with teachers and administrators. It is their efforts that will bring improvement to Agawam schools. For myself, I will not complain. I will not undermine. I will not pull my kids out of the system. I will not write letters to the newspapers running down the community and its dedicated school faculties and staffs. That is not my idea of fighting for our children. I see the complainers as part of the problem, not part of the solution. Instead, as a good citizen would do, I will volunteer to help my children's teachers in whatever way they tell me I can be of use.

The Agawam Public Schools are unquestionably the best my children have attended. No one connected with them has disappointed me or failed my kids in any way. I will be proud to see each of them graduate from Agawam High.

Sincerely,
Robert C. Donaldson
Feeding Hills

Richard Brindle Was A Valued Member Of Our Community

To The Editor:

Everyone lost a valued friend when Richard Brindle passed away February 13th. He possessed qualities which endeared him to his family and friends, and impressed anyone who came into contact with him.

SEE LETTERS - Page 5...

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Sponsored By
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Saturday, February 24th
"Broken Spoke" Country Western Dance
8:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Dance Instruction
8:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m. Dance
Spfld. Turnverein, 17 Garden St., Ag.
(sponsored by Ag. Junior Women's Club)

Monday, February 26th
Meeting of Ag./F. Hills AARP
At Agawam Senior Center
1:00 p.m.
Call 786-1866 for further information

Monday, February 26th
Agawam Women's Club meeting
At Capt. Leonard House, Main St.
7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, February 28th
Trading Post's "Big Sale"
At First Baptist Church
(corner of Main & Elm Sts.)
10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Friday, March 1st
Live animal program from Laughing
Brook at the Agawam Public Library
(sponsored by Agawam Cultural Council)
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LETTERS - from Page 4...

He was friendly and had a calm, outgoing personality. He had moral principles which guided his decisions as when he was on the Agawam Town Council, and the many organizations of which he was a member.

He was a gentleman in the truest sense of the word and will be sorely missed by his family and friends.

Arthur Femmel
Jane Femmel
Feeding Hills

"Valentine Message" Tells The Truth With Much Humor

To The Editor:

It is no small group that wishes the message on Donna Jago's Valentine would come true. We truly want to say goodbye to Berkshire Power.

We are tired of their phony good neighbor act because we know the promoters of power plants don't live with what they sell. We also know that the consortium would not have to spend \$6 million to brainwash us if a power plant was a good project.

We are resentful that their strategy was to divide us into groups and try to buy any opposition with a gift. Since Agawam still is a rural town, they figured we were nature lovers and gave this group a seedling. Then they looked at the parents and did some athletic events for the children; that would take care of that group.

Another group left, the old people, take them to breakfast at the Oaks. Now they are financing a group who think their taxes are going to be stabilized by a power plant. What these people should do is take a look at all the industry that is coming in and has come in and ask, "Why aren't my taxes stabilized now?"

As for the second Valentine, goodbye to the Mayor, 41 percent of us tried to do that in the past election. We felt that the town could have better schools, better taxes, and most of all, someone who would listen to the people of this town. We also resent the fact that we are paying his salary to promote Berkshire Power.

Thank you, Donna Jago. You proved that the truth can be told with humor.

Sincerely,
Mary Ghedi
Agawam

Critical Letters Do Not Speak On Behalf Of All Residents

To The Editor:

I've been reading articles in *The AAN* written by a certain few people in regards to certain matters in our town, i.e., the Power Plant, Fisher Scientific, etc.

The writers of these articles think they are speaking on behalf of all residents of Agawam.

Well, they are not speaking on behalf of this resident. Instead of being negative all the time, let's think positive. Let Agawam go forward - we do need revenue.

Helen Bobeck
Feeding Hills

Local Dentists Should Visit Residents Of Nursing Homes

To The Editor:

I am appalled to find that we have no dentists in our area willing to go to a nursing home! WHY??

It is absolutely disgusting that a person, who has all their faculties, but for rapid weight loss can't keep her teeth in her mouth, therefore, is unable to eat.

I spoke to a dental group from Holyoke. They make house visits, but when they found it was a nursing home, they suggested that I find someone closer. Holyoke to Agawam??? Closer???

Another dentist—\$175 up front and \$100 to \$200 for relining. Holyoke dentist—\$50 up front and \$180 per plate.

A West Springfield lab charges about \$89 per plate, but you have to go there.

The nursing home has a dentist from N. Easton. Why someone that far away? He charges \$190 per plate. Send the money and he will decide when he has time to come. "He takes care of his patients first."

Do you think a person being seen without her teeth, and not being able to eat, isn't in pain? It's embarrassing, as well as uncomfortable and unhealthy. Most people care how they look.

I wonder how many dentists would let their parent suffer this way? And it is suffering!!! Don't people care anymore?

Medicare/private pay—Why does it make a difference???

L. Bryant
Feeding Hills

F. Hills Resident Is Pleased With Decision Regarding Pub

To The Editor:

On Tuesday, February 13th, there was a meeting of the Agawam Liquor Licensing Commission at the Agawam Police Station. At this meeting, the commission chairman, Mr. DiIullo, and commission members, Mr. Chriscola and Mr. Vanderhoof, listened to over 100 neighbors of the Juniper Ridge Shops area of Feeding Hills. This editorial is written to express my sincere appreciation for their unanimous decision to deny the liquor license transfer requested by Mr. Bottaro from Betty's In The Patch to the proposed Juniper Ridge Pub.

I would like to thank everyone who worked so hard to prevent the Juniper Ridge Pub from becoming established at the Juniper Ridge Shops location. The majority has spoken. The majority has been heard and recognized. I feel so fortunate to be living here with neighbors who sincerely care about preserving our quality of life. Feeding Hills is a great place to live and raise a family. Thank you, friends and neighbors, for giving up your evening to speak up for our families and for our neighborhood!

Special thanks to Gail and Rick Jagadowski and to Jim Foley. They signed the petition. They then continued to get even more signatures in their own areas of the neighborhood. Also, they shared excellent ideas and gave us all their full support during what seemed to be a very long month.

Mike Tolli at Tolli's Pizzeria also worked hard getting us those extra signatures right up to the last hour before meeting time.

The Agawam Advertiser has been so helpful in our attempt to prevent the liquor license transfer to Juniper Ridge Pub. As I walked around the neighborhood speaking to people, most had read the latest editorials once they began to be published each week. Thank you. You provide us with a great service.

Before I close, I do want to wish Mr. Bottaro success in finding a better location for a pub.

Thank you, again, for coming to the meeting!

Laura L. Poth
971 North St. Ext.
Feeding Hills

SEE LETTERS - Page 6...

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LETTERS - from Page 5...

More "Points Of Interest" Regarding Berkshire Power

To The Editor:

In my letter last week to *The Advertiser News*, I outlined five points to underscore the bizarre and shifting politics of the Berkshire Power plant debate.

Here are more points of interest:

6) All arguments over "special interests" or the so-called amplified voice of a few represent a subterfuge for the designs of a genuine special interest (Berkshire Power) that truly does have disproportional clout in city government.

As one outside interest imports a dystopian vision of the responsibilities of city government to this community, the voice of this city's true citizens are quickly subordinate to the dollars exerting a hypnotic hold on public officials (who confuse private interest with public interest) and seem increasingly wed only to the best interests of those private interests who prefer the permitting process to the democratic process. To quote June Jordan, "Where's the rage?"

7) There seems to be considerable confusion over to what extent the best interests of an industry with no regard for city zoning laws may be linked to the best interests of the several industries who shall respect our zoning laws. This city's industrial park has been extraordinarily successful not in spite of city zoning, but rather because of it. If prospective industry has not the slightest idea how high their neighbors' structures will be, then the prospect of malleability rather than integrity for city zoning may be less of a boon than some now seem to think.

8) Scare tactics intended to frighten homeowners into consent for bogus "deals" and willy-nilly wild development belie the waste in city hall. I question if industrial development is eroding to such extent that the residential tax rate should rise, and am quite sure tax hikes in the future will reflect less on the CCBA, for instance, than on, say, wasteful junkets for city firefighters.

9) Nitrogen oxides are pollutants, a fact we can hide from no longer. However "clean" a superfluous utility may be, such will hardly be clean enough to justify the slightest rise in the level of atmospheric pollutants to feed wasteful habits contributing to global environmental crises.

Furthermore, we have no guarantees that only natural gas will be used at the facility. We cannot afford anymore to dance around the following questions:

Will the stacks pierce the thermal inversion layer? What will be purchased in terms of emissions credits? Will isocyanic acid be used, if available commercially? How will sludge be disposed of?

10) There has been an impression on the part of some that the matter has been removed from our hands. However, we can still secure citizen input on the question by supporting the proposed initiative by Mr. Kasparian, by resurrecting the prior proposed question of City Councilor Jill Simpson, and by lobbying, especially Rep. Keenan, and Sens. Linda Melconian, Brian Lees, and Stanley Rosenberg, to bar the State Energy Facilities Siting Board and the DPU from overriding the will of cities and towns.

We can also remove the recalcitrant in any simple election. Where there's a will, there's always a way, dear citizens, and I don't want to read or hear more ridiculous agit-prop intended to produce a feeling of powerlessness or resignation in our town's citizens. We can write all of these legislators at the State House in Boston, MA 02133. We can make it an upcoming election issue!

11) It should also be noted that, if we pull our heads out from under so many tons of sand, no business could even afford to propose paying our town five times what that very business estimates it might shell out in taxes. It isn't the river that smells fishy! For my part, I would rather secure the threat of property confiscation against non-payment of taxes than invest my hopes against failure to collect revenues in the mere threat of lawsuits against an obviously litigious corporation.

Sincerely,
Owen R. Broadhurst

Resident Is Willing To Change His Stance On Power Plant

To The Editor:

A couple of weeks ago, I wrote a letter concerning the public discussion of Berkshire Power. I also spoke before our Town Council on this issue.

While it is true that I support Berkshire Power, it is also true that I want the Plant fully investigated on the scientific and regulatory level. If this can be done on the "local" level by certified scientists connected to the E.P.A. and the state Department of Utilities, then so be it. The issue is not "local" as a place, but "local" citizens having the full facts to make an intelligent decision.

A referendum is not a full scientific investigation. Emotions do not sway the E.P.A. as they can on a referendum issue.

If the plant is not allowed, it should be based on facts and not emotions.

As stated before, I do not belittle the opposition's honest concerns, I just want them addressed once and for all at the correct level.

Notice that I do not attack the opposition, but consider them to have honest personal concerns. I do not use their names or make fun of them. I have too much integrity and belief in my position to stoop to that level.

An honest, open discussion is much better than name-calling. In my opinion, it is only when someone doesn't have a firm belief in his/her position that they must sink to the use of such degrading names as "King" Johnson rather than backing up their statement with facts.

The use of name-calling destroys an argument. I am sure that most members of the opposition group share this concern about personal attacks.

I also stated my belief that the town needs to increase our revenue base. Statements have been made that this revenue could be raised without Berkshire Power. If this is possible, I would like to see the specific plans to develop our Industrial Park with other companies that will generate \$1,000,000 in new revenue and then increase at a three percent a year rate in a town that can only raise property taxes to a maximum of 2½ percent.

Just as I am looking for facts from and about Berkshire Power, I am looking for concrete facts from the opposition.

I am willing to revise my stance after the scientific investigation is complete if it "proves" Berkshire Power to be a health risk. Will the opposition change theirs if Berkshire Power is "proven" to be safe?

Frank Meagher
Feeding Hills

P.S. I just read this week's *Advertiser*. The attacks continue. C.A.T. is not paid by Berkshire Power. I am an independent citizen who wants to see the plant built if it is safe. The only way to know if it is safe is to fully study the issue, not because someone tells me it is not safe. Don't belittle my beliefs, I don't belittle your concerns.

Thanks Expressed For Support Of Resident's "Valentine"

To The Editor:

Many friends and neighbors, as well as residents, that I've never had the pleasure of meeting, came forward recently by phone and letter to support my efforts around the much publicized Valentine Greeting to Berkshire Power and Mayor Johnson.

To all of you, I send my heartfelt appreciation and my hope that we all continue to work together on any issue that may threaten the quality of life and the character of this town.

With Sincere Gratitude,
Donna Jago
River Road
Agawam

School Committee Has Spines Of Spaghetti

To The Editor:

For the past few weeks there has been a rather vocal discussion raging in the pages of this newspaper about the quality of education in the Agawam School System, specifically at the Agawam High School. School Committee members have once again proved that they have spines made out of spaghetti and have done their best to ignore the issues.

Much of this discussion started when results of various standardized tests were made public. Many of us were troubled to see that Agawam students scored below state and national averages on some of these tests. On the all important S.A.T., our students scored well below average.

Since this discussion began, we have been bombarded with excuses by various defenders of the status quo. We've seen articles and letters which blame the students and the previous administrators at the high school. We've been told that we must be positive and that we should focus on the good things that are happening in our schools.

I haven't seen anyone admit that these test results prove that we have a serious problem with the academic program at our high school. I haven't seen anyone come forward with a plan or proposal to fix it. We are all willing to stipulate that some very good things happen in our schools. Most of us have been deeply involved in trying to help our schools for a number of years. We are well aware of the fact that we have some wonderful teachers and some very devoted and involved administrators, but we also must face the fact that somewhere there is a problem which must be addressed.

We have spent a great deal of time arguing about who we should compare ourselves with. Historically we have resisted comparisons to school systems like Longmeadow, which scored a few hundred points above state and national averages on the S.A.T.'s. We have been told that our two communities are nothing alike and thus shouldn't be compared.

Mr. Tom Tierney recently did a wonderful study that used state figures to find communities similar to Agawam for comparison on the M.E.A.P. tests. When he compared Agawam to Ludlow and Belchertown, we fared just as poorly. But again, defenders came rushing in to question the appropriateness of comparisons with these communities.

SEE LETTERS - Page 7...

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LETTERS - from Page 6...

The truth of the matter is that when we compare the performance of our students on the S.A.T. and on the 10th grade M.E.A.P. tests to almost any other community, we do not measure up well. It is easy to say that we shouldn't compare ourselves to community X or Y. If that is true, then it is incumbent on our school committee to tell all of us what school system they would be willing to accept comparison with. What standard are they willing to have our system judged by?

At what point are they willing to admit that we have a problem that must be dealt with?

We have to keep in mind that the true test of our school system will be found in the experiences each of our students after they graduate from Agawam High School. When our children move on to college they will be competing against students from Longmeadow and Ludlow. If these students from other communities are better prepared to deal with the requirements of some of the better colleges and universities, then our school system has failed.

If our students are lacking the tools necessary to compete with their average classmates from other communities, then we have failed them. It is not the children's fault, it is all of ours. The recent results of standardized tests shows that we may not be properly preparing our students to compete and to win in the world of "higher education." I find that troubling.

Frank Lawlor
Agawam

Valentine's Flap Over Plant Is Comical & Ironic

To The Editor:

We find all this fuss about a Valentine greeting to our Mayor (Chris Johnson) and the industry that is suing our town and taking us to court (Berkshire Power), not only Comical, but Ironic.

The sign on River Road reads:

"Berkshire Power and King Johnson,
Roses are Red.
Violets are Blue.
We want to say good-bye
To the Two of You."

First, the Comedy:

The vast majority of Agawam residents, would not have traveled River Road this past week. If certain people in City Hall weren't so offended by

this Valentine Greeting, most Agawam residents would never even know that this message existed.

But Nooooo!

Now this story is on TV-22, TV-40, the front page of the local edition of *The Union News*, National Public Radio, WAQY-ROCK 102, and possibly ABC News.

Once again, not only is our Mayor seen in a bad light, but he is also aligned with Berkshire Power. (You remember Berkshire Power? They are the industry that is suing your town.)

Now the Irony:

This Valentine Greeting is larger than 4 square feet. This violates our town's zoning laws.

The Mayor of Agawam supports Berkshire Power.

Now, what's worse ... a Valentine Greeting on a boathouse on River Road that's too big and unintentionally violated our zoning laws, or a power plant whose structures will intentionally violate our zoning laws, pollute our skies, consume our drinking water, negatively impact property values and change the character of Agawam forever?

Or, more importantly ... what's the difference?

They both violate our zoning laws.

If a Valentine Greeting violates the Agawam zoning laws, it should come down.

If a power plant cannot be built within the guidelines of our zoning laws (under 40 feet high), then it should not and cannot be built.

To all Town Officials:

The law is the law. ENFORCE IT.

To Donna Jago:

Great job! Take the sign down. Remember, it violates our zoning laws.

To Berkshire Power:

You don't care about our zoning laws.

You intend to circumvent our zoning laws.

You are taking our town to court.

You are forcing Agawam residents to use their tax dollars to defend our laws.

You should just get out of town!

To Mayor Johnson:

You cannot pick and choose which zoning laws you defend, and which zoning laws you want to disregard.

Back in January, you rose your right hand and swore to defend and uphold our laws. You are our leader, aren't you?

Happy Valentine's Day
Sandi & Ken Fornl
Agawam

FireWise

by Fire Chief David Pisano Choosing And Using A Fire Extinguisher

Most fires start small, and it is at this stage that if a fire extinguisher is handy, it could put out the fire or keep it from spreading. You should only attempt to fight a fire with a fire extinguisher when it is small and in its early stage.

If your exit could potentially be blocked by fire, don't attempt to fight the fire. Instead, get out of the building.

The Agawam Fire Department provides the following hints on purchasing and using a fire extinguisher:

- Most fire extinguishers operate this way:
 1. Pull the locking pin.
 2. Aim at the base of the flames.
 3. Squeeze the handle.
 4. Sweep back and forth over the burning area.
- The contents of most extinguishers last less than 30 to 60 seconds. Aim carefully at the base of the flame.
- Fire extinguishers are meant to fight only small fires (no bigger around than a trash can). Fighting too large a fire can be dangerous.
- Whenever a fire occurs, get everyone out first and call the fire department. Then use your extinguisher if the fire is still small enough.
- All fire extinguishers are not alike. They are marked with the letter(s) indicating the type of fire they can put out:
 - "A" — ordinary fuels such as wood, cloth, paper, rubber, plastics
 - "B" — flammable liquids like gasoline, kerosene, oil, paint, kitchen grease
 - "C" — electricity
 - "D" — metals
- Purchase a multi-purpose extinguisher with a "BC" or "ABC" label for typical home use.
- Install extinguishers.
- Check the pressure gauge on your extinguisher periodically to see if it needs recharging. Look in the phone book for professionals to fill and recharge extinguishers.
- Always refill or replace a used extinguisher immediately. Never put it back empty. An empty extinguisher is dangerous for someone else to use.

For further information, contact the Agawam Fire Department at 786-2662.

Rep. Keenan Hails Adoption Of Local Aid Resolution

State Representative Daniel F. Keenan is pleased to announce the enactment of the fiscal year 1997 Local Aid Resolution by the House on February 14th. The purpose of the measure, as stated within the resolution, is to provide timely notice to cities and towns of the amounts of school and municipal aid essential for an orderly and rational budget process at the local level.

"The passage of this resolution will provide local officials with the basic minimum amount of state aid to begin their budget preparation," stated Rep. Keenan, a co-sponsor of the resolution. "The House is doing its part to ensure an orderly approach to the local budgetary process."

Under the resolution, the minimum amounts that the Town of Agawam will receive include: \$7,965,769 in Chapter 70 funding for the schools, \$2,210,593 in lottery aid, and \$223,588 in additional lottery distribution funds.

Because municipalities must set their budgets by July 1st, these figures will enable local officials to make informed decisions on local spending and tax issues.

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View From The State House

by State Rep.
Daniel F. Keenan

Upcoming Budget Challenges (Part II)

WELFARE

Welfare, or income assistance, is divided into three programs: Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), Emergency Aid to Elderly, Disabled and Children (EAEDC), and the state supplement to the federal Supplemental Security Income (SSI). AFDC is the largest program and provides assistance to 255,000 parents and children in 90,000 poor families.

The number of families on welfare has dropped for 27 consecutive months, from a peak of almost 115,000 in May of 1993 to 90,067 in November of 1995, a reduction of 21 percent. There are several factors attributable for this reduction: 1) the improved state economy; 2) increased child support collections; 3) efforts to reduce fraud; and 4) the welfare reform law.

The Welfare Reform Law produced benefit reductions for 40,000 welfare families. It established work requirements affecting 18,000 to 20,000 AFDC parents. It provides greater earning allowances for working recipients. It also provided school requirements for school-aged children and teen parents, new living arrangements for teen parents, and a family cap on benefits.

At the federal level, the House and Senate welfare reform packages would combine AFDC and other assistance programs into a single block grant to the states. Under these proposals Massachusetts would receive between \$400-\$475 million in federal welfare payments in 1996, while only \$370 million are expected under current law.

SCHOOL AID

Perhaps the area of public spending which receives the most public attention is school aid. In its commitment to the 1993 Education Reform Act, the state has provided \$237 million in new school aid for FY 1996. This aid accounted for 43 percent of all spending growth. The new law calls for four more \$200 million plus annual increases, which will bring school aid to \$3 billion in the year 2000.

School districts in the Commonwealth received \$209 million in new aid for FY 1996, which was

tied to spending goals for each school district. This foundation budget is designed to insure that low-spending schools will ultimately have adequate resources and better financed schools to maintain their budgets. The foundation budget is recalculated each year to reflect changes in enrollment and inflation. Most cities and towns are required to maintain their current level of support, and communities which undersupport their schools are expected to do more.

There are key questions swirling around school aid: How much should local government contribute to its schools? How do cities and towns balance required spending for schools with demands for other public services?

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

As cities and towns struggle to meet the demand for increased public services, local officials are seeking increased local aid and fewer unfunded state mandates. In order to meet local needs, the Legislature has responded. In 1995, uncapping the lottery aid provided a \$40 million increase, and in 1996 that figure rose to \$50 million. The Legislature has committed to increase lottery aid over five years until cities and towns receive all lottery revenues in 2000.

Each city and town will receive the lottery aid it received last year, plus new funds distributed under the lottery formula. Under this formula, municipalities with less property value per resident receive more aid, wealthier places less. The formula is intended to offset differences in the ability of communities to raise revenue through the property tax.

The lottery formula is outdated, however, since Proposition 2½ limits property tax growth. In addition, the education reform law mandates local spending requirements. Under these changing circumstances, a new approach to allocating aid may be necessary.

DEBT SERVICE

A crucial element to the state's economic health has been the level of the state's bonded indebtedness. The state has worked hard to control the growth of debt service within the last several years. From 1993 to 1996, debt service growth has averaged 2.6 percent per year. Prior to these years, between 1989 and 1993, debt service grew by an average of 15 percent annually. With firm limits on state borrowing, the state debt grew two percent in 1995.

Although debt service growth has been slowed, the Commonwealth's debt service equaled 7.5 percent of the entire state budget in 1996. In 1988, debt service equaled five percent of state expenditures. Moreover, when debt service costs are included for the MBTA and the Massachusetts Convention Center Authority, debt service accounts for nine percent of state spending in 1996.

Under the administration's five-year capital plan, the state anticipates issuing \$900 million in

new bonded debt each year between 1996 and 2000. The treasurer estimates that this will increase debt service costs between four and five percent per year. The Governor and the Legislature will face difficult choices to keep the level of debt and debt service under control as they face an overwhelming demand for capital spending.

WHAT THE FUTURE MAY HOLD

As with any economy, there is an ever-changing set of circumstances which may alter the soundest and most prudent fiscal planning. The state's economy is subject not only to the needs of its cities and towns but to any number of emergencies which may require immediate economic aid. Furthermore, the Commonwealth has come to view its economy not only in terms of the New England region but the nation and the globe as well.

Massachusetts will be subject to a number of proposed changes at the federal level, which, if adopted, will raise some interesting questions regarding the state budget and the state's ability to fully recover from the recession of the late 1980's. Efforts in Congress to balance the federal budget will undoubtedly affect the level of reimbursements to all the states. Under the GOP plan, the level of 1996 federal grants to Massachusetts would be \$157 million less than in 1995. This would have a devastating effect on those state agencies which have melded their operations with federally funded programs. For example, nearly all of the 845 employees of the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission and half of the 475 employees of the Department of Education are funded by the non-budgetary federal grants. The state will be forced to reassess its role in programs currently funded by federal grants.

How will Massachusetts fare under new federal Medicaid and welfare formulas? With the state's proven ability to control Medicaid costs and its own welfare reform in place, the state will experience short-term benefits under new federal programs. Nevertheless, the costs of these programs will eventually outpace funding, and the Administration and the Legislature will face the tough choice of whether to absorb these costs or reduce services.

Ultimately, what will determine many of the budgetary choices facing the Legislature will be changes in federal policy and any adoption of the Governor's proposal to downsize state government. Much will depend upon the continued cooperation between the Governor and the Legislature which has been cited as one of the primary reasons for the positive turnaround in the Massachusetts economy and the fiscal outlook. The Legislature has proven itself capable of meeting these types of challenges head on with an eye toward not only the immediate needs of the citizens of the Commonwealth but also with a vision of the state's future economic well-being.

Melconian Announces Availability Of Financial Aid Grants & Loans For Students

Senate Assistant Majority Leader Linda J. Melconian (D-Springfield) has announced the availability of state and federal grants and low-interest loans for Massachusetts students attending college in the fall.

"There is substantial aid available for students applying to schools, but students should search out all aid possibilities and apply early," Melconian said. In fact, last year, Massachusetts students received over \$1.2 billion in aid from the federal and state government.

In Hampden County, the Springfield Educational Opportunity Center, located at 591 Memorial Drive, Fairfield Mall Rear, Chicopee, MA

01013, offers free information and advice on applying for aid. Trained counselors help people research aid sources and complete applications. Every student applying for aid must fill out the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) form.

Brochures on sources of financial aid, borrowing for college, and researching scholarships are available at the center or by calling 1-800-442-1171. The Educational Centers, located throughout the state, recommend that anyone applying for financial aid should do so by March 1st, in order to present themselves with the best chance of receiving aid.

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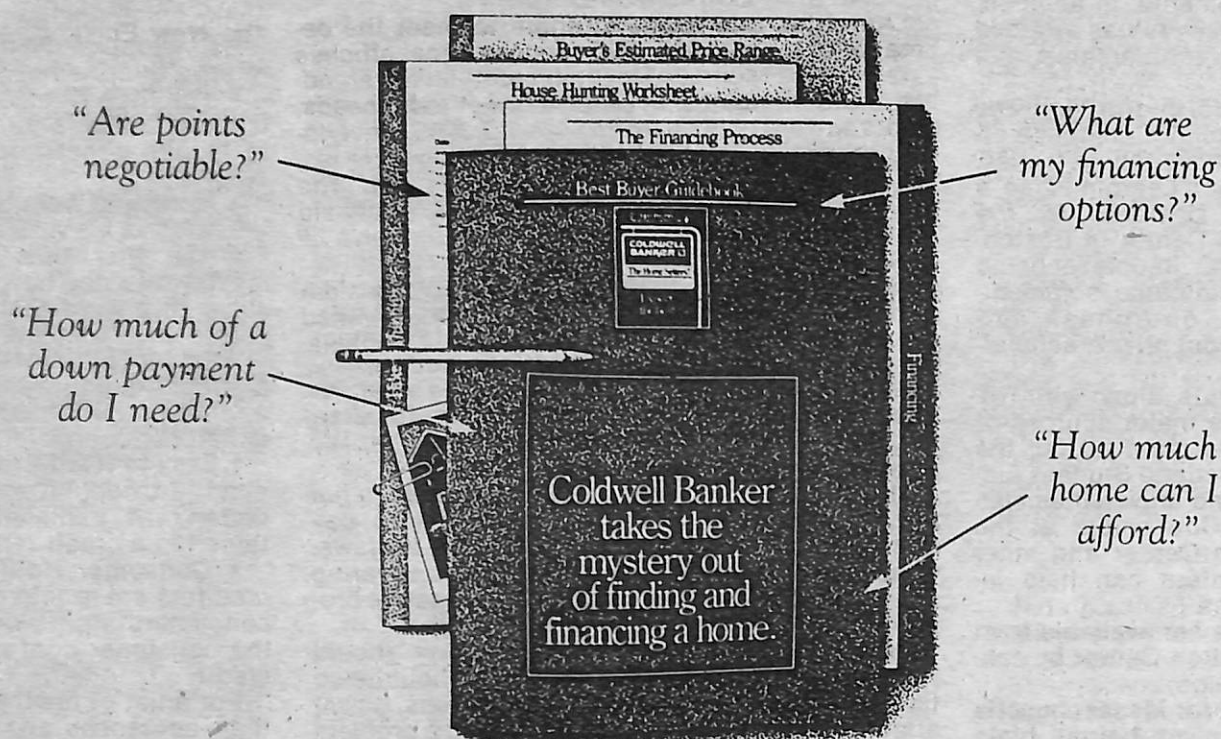
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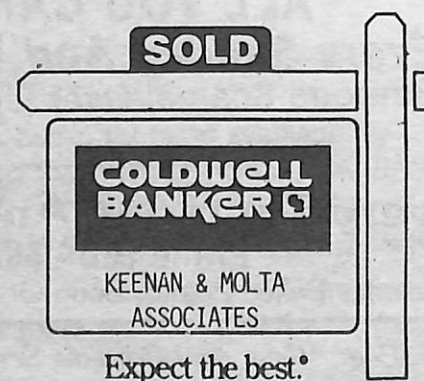
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Keenan Says Students Must Apply Now For College Financial Aid

"People planning to attend college next fall need to apply for financial aid now," stated Representative Daniel F. Keenan. "While substantial aid is available, students need to apply early, preferably before March 1st, and investigate all possible sources of aid."

Last year, Massachusetts students received over \$1.2 billion in grants and low interest loans from federal and state governments. In addition, Massachusetts colleges and universities awarded students millions of dollars in scholarships from their own funds.

People can get financial aid information and application forms from high school guidance offices, financial aid offices, and public libraries. They also can call the Career and Learning Line, a toll-free information hotline operated by the Higher Education Information Center in Boston. This number is 1-800-442-1171. People should check with the Chamber of Commerce, community agencies, employers, churches, and newspapers for information about private scholarships.

Federal and state governments, along with colleges and universities, are the major sources of aid. Students interested in aid must fill out the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) form. Many private colleges and universities also require the PROFILE form. Counselors at the Higher Education Information Center and other Educational Opportunity Centers can help individuals complete these forms.

Free financial aid brochures are available from the Higher Education Information Center by calling 1-800-442-1171. These include:

- "Sources of Financial Aid for Massachusetts Students" - a brochure that gives helpful hints about researching scholarships.

- "A Guide to Borrowing for College" - a list of the major loan programs for Massachusetts families.

- "Researching Private Scholarships" - a guide to locating scholarships from private organizations.

IRS Tax Tip Of The Week... File Your Return— Even If You Can't Pay!

It's April, the federal income tax return is due soon, and there's no money in the checking account. Sound familiar? For those who answer "yes," the Internal Revenue Service says file anyway.

People who get behind in their taxes often continue to put off filing, but the IRS says that is the worst move a person could make. Although there are penalties and interest for paying late, there are much larger penalties for failing to file in the first place.

With each return not filed, the debt piles up. By the time IRS comes looking for the taxpayer, the amount owed may be overwhelming. Also, people who never file a return and owe Social Security tax won't have a complete work history, so they may not be able to collect Social Security benefits when they retire.

Whenever possible, and to avoid additional penalty and interest charges, the IRS expects people to pay their tax liability in full. Those who cannot afford to pay what they owe should contact the IRS to discuss payment options such as installment payments and offers to settle their tax account for less than the amount owed. However, the offer must be in the best interest of both the person and the government.

The bottom line is that it's always better to file and, if necessary, make arrangements to pay rather than waiting for IRS to enforce the tax laws. Consequences for not filing returns or answering IRS letters can range up to an IRS lien against property or, in worst cases, criminal charges.

When people deal with the IRS, they should know their rights as taxpayers. They should also find out more about the collection process, how it affects them, and where to go for help if a problem can't get resolved.

Details on these topics are covered in *Publication 1, Your Rights As a Taxpayer* (Publication 1SP, *Derechos del Contribuyente*, in Spanish), and *Publication 594, Understanding the Collection Process* (Publication 594SP, *Comprendiendo el Proceso de Cobro*). Call 1-800-829-3676 for free copies.

Rep. Keenan Outlines Credit Reform Law

In an effort to keep the public informed regarding the Credit Reporting Reform Law, State Representative Daniel F. Keenan has outlined the major provisions of the bill that was signed into law in September and took effect on January 31, 1996.

- **Free Credit Report:** Credit bureaus which collect data on a national basis must provide a consumer upon request with one free credit report annually. An informed consumer can help ensure accurate credit reports by spotting errors before applying for credit, housing, or a job.

- **Consumer Privacy Protection:** Consumers can remove their names from marketing lists.

- **Toll-Free Number:** Credit reporting agencies must establish a toll-free number for consumers to inquire about information appearing on their reports.

- **Increased Accountability:** Providers of credit information are held accountable for its accuracy. For the first time, information providers are responsible for having a reasonable system in place to ensure that the data they report is accurate and complete.

- **Errors Eliminated Quickly:** Credit bureaus and creditors must investigate and correct erroneous information within 30 business days of receiving a consumer complaint.

- **Easy-to-Read Credit Reports:** Credit bureaus must provide, in writing, a clear and easy-to-understand explanation of all information contained in a credit report.

- **Consumer Notification:** Credit bureaus and creditors are required to send a specific notice of consumers' rights under the new law each time the consumer contacts the agency or is denied credit.

For a list of the three major credit bureaus and their addresses and telephone numbers, people may call Rep. Keenan's district office at (413) 786-4545.

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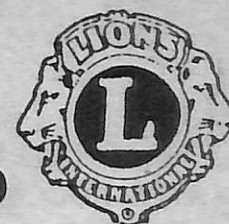
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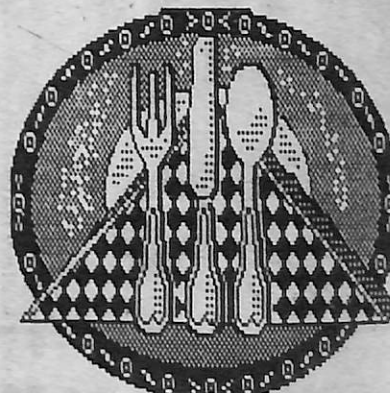


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Agawam Obituaries

Charles P. Gaudino

Charles P. Gaudino of Agawam, a retired 20-year letter carrier at the Postal Service, Agawam branch, died in Springfield's Mercy Hospital. He retired in 1984.

Previously, he was manager of Loew's Poli Theater in Springfield and in Connecticut. Born and educated in Bethany, Connecticut, he moved here in 1954.

He was Marine Corps veteran of World War II and saw action at Guadalcanal, Cape Gloucester, Rooke Island and Peleliu, Paulau Islands, where he was wounded in action. He received a Purple Heart and a Letter of Commendation for bravery against enemy forces.

He was a communicant of St. John the Evangelist Church. He was a member of the Agawam Town Committee and Convention Bureau and a former member of the Agawam Chamber of Commerce and Agawam Democratic Club.

He leaves his wife, the former Jacqueline Stabile; three sons, Charles Jr. of Springfield, John of Agawam, and Michael of Manchester, Connecticut; a brother, Samuel of North Lauderdale, Florida; a sister, Julia Ferreauli of Hamden, Connecticut; and three grandchildren.

The funeral was at Colonial Funeral Home and in the church, with burial in Agawam Center Cemetery.

Dr. Joseph Stirlacci

Dr. Joseph R. "Dr. Joe" Stirlacci, 72, of 264 Sumner Avenue, Springfield, a 40-year pediatrician, died at home.

He served thousands of local children through his practice, Sumner Pediatrics, Inc.

He also worked at Providence Hospital in Holyoke, Springfield's Mercy Hospital and Baystate Medical Center, and Brightside Children's Center in West Springfield.

He was a staff doctor at Trinity Nursery School.

A lifelong Springfield resident, he graduated from the former Classical High School in 1941, and Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut, in 1947. He received his medical degree from Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.

A first lieutenant and executive officer in the Navy during World War II, he was awarded the American Theater Ribbon, the Asiatic Pacific Rib-

bon with two stars, the Victory Ribbon, and a star for the Philippine Liberation.

He was a member of the American Medical Association, the Academy of Pediatrics, and the Irish Medical Society. He belonged to UNICO and was its Man of the Year in 1990.

He was diplomat to the American Board of Pediatrics, a board member of the YMCA, and a volunteer for the March of Dimes.

He leaves his wife, the former Grace Clampl; three daughters, JoAnn Trauschke and Mary Ellen Gallagher of Feeding Hills, and Donna Stirlacci of Springfield; two brothers, Frank of Springfield and Ronald of North Miami, Florida; four sisters, Patricia Clark of Springfield, Roseanne Stirlacci of Feeding Hills, Geraldine Stirlacci and Gloria Heywood of Agawam; and five grandchildren.

The funeral was at Forastiere-Smith Funeral Home in East Longmeadow and at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, with burial in St. Michael's Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to Baystate Medical Center Children's Pediatric Unit, Chestnut Street, Springfield, or to Pioneer Valley Girl Scout Camping Fund, 40 Harkness Ave., East Longmeadow, 01028.

Nellie Buravich

Nellie (Schultz) Buravich, 90, of Agawam, died in a local nursing home.

She was born in Boston and had lived here for the past 32 years.

Her husband, Joseph Buravich, died in 1971.

She leaves two daughters, Helene Malonowski of Trenton, Michigan, and Joanne Kwiat of Agawam; two brothers, Joseph Schultz of Hamtramck, Michigan, and Henry Schultz of Largo, Florida; two sisters, Mary Doros of North Brookfield and Bertha Pockoski of Danielson, Connecticut; five grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

A private funeral service was scheduled for this week, with burial in Agawam Center Cemetery. Colonial Funeral Home in Agawam was in charge of the arrangements.

Katherine Kalloch

Katherine M. (Day) Kalloch, 87, of 54 Oakland Street, Wilbraham, a retired Agawam High School Latin teacher, died at South Shore Hospital in Weymouth. She taught for 25 years, including 11 years at Agawam High School.

She also taught at the Smith Academy in Hatfield, and in Florida. Born in Northampton, she was a graduate of Marymount College in Tarrytown, New York. She spent 25 years in West Springfield, and 25 years in Jensen Beach, Florida, before moving to Wilbraham.

She worshipped at St. Martin De Porre's Church in Jensen Beach, and belonged to social and charitable groups there. She was the widow of John R. Kalloch.

She leaves two sons, Henry J. of East Longmeadow and James A. of South Hamilton; two daughters, Katherine Stinson of Hingham and Rosemary Kalloch of Wilbraham; 12 grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. Another daughter, Mary Pernice, died on January 16th.

The funeral was at Forastiere-Smith Funeral Home and St. Michael's Church, both in East Longmeadow, with burial at St. Mary's Cemetery in Northampton.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, 383 Dwight St., Holyoke, 01040.

Jane L. Wojnarowicz

Jane (Lesik) Wojnarowicz, 74, of Agawam, an employee of the former Buxton Leather Co. for 25 years, died in Westfield's Noble Hospital.

She retired in 1985. Born in Chicopee, she lived in West Springfield before moving here 48 years ago. She was a communicant of St. John the Evangelist Church, and a member of the Buxton 25-Year Club.

She leaves her husband, Stanley Wojnarowicz; a son, James S. of Belchertown; a daughter, Antoinette Marmo of Feeding Hills; two brothers, John of Agawam, and Stanley of St. Augustine, Florida; a sister, Mary Moore of Lake Mary, Florida; and two grandchildren.

The funeral was at Toomey-O'Brien Funeral Home and the church, with burial at St. Stanislaus's Cemetery in Chicopee.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Intensive Care Unit, Noble Hospital, West Silver St., Westfield, 01085.

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Valentine's Sign On Power Plant Gets Plenty Of Attention



RIVER ROAD RESIDENT DONNA JAGO put a sign on her boathouse several weeks ago to underscore her opposition to the Berkshire Power plant and to Mayor Christopher C. Johnson's support of it. When the building inspector told her to take the sign down because it did not conform to local sign laws, a flap in the media ensued and climaxed when Mayor Johnson and Berkshire Power employee Joann McGeoghan stopped by at Ms. Jago's home to give her a Valentine greeting on Valentine's Day. Advertiser

News photos by Jack Devine.



Roberta Brundrett Seeking Election To Republican State Committee

Republican Party activist Roberta Brundrett of 1141 Elm Street, West Springfield, will be a candidate for Republican State Committee Woman from the Hampden Senatorial District.

Brundrett is an attorney and has been active in Republican Party politics since 1970. She has been heavily involved in the campaigns of Gov. William Weld and Lt. Gov. Paul Cellucci and State Sen. Brian Lees.

The Presidential Preference Primary is Tuesday, March 5th, and the election for Republican State Committee will be on the ballot in the Hampden District, which includes West Springfield, Agawam, Chicopee wards 2, 4, and 5, and Springfield wards 1, 4, 5, and 6.

Brundrett said, "My relationship with Gov. Weld

and Lt. Gov. Cellucci and many other Republicans statewide has given me the access and organizational ability I believe is necessary to make an impact on the Republican Party and to help it grow in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts."

Brundrett is a 1976 graduate of Boston University School of Law and holds an A.B., magna cum laude, from Wheaton College, Norton, MA.

She is a past Chairman of the Ward 5 (Springfield) Republican Committee, served as Western Massachusetts Coordinator for former U.S. Sen. Edward Brooke, and has been a nine-time delegate to the Republican State Convention.

She is also on the Board of Directors of the Republican Club of Massachusetts.



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Families

“Membership Party” Was A Great Success For Jr. Women’s Club

On February 13th, the Agawam Junior Women's Club held a “Membership Party” for prospective new members. Several in-town women attended to find out more about the history of the club. Our reputation to fulfill our club's objective—“mutual helpfulness, the advancement of public welfare, and the promotion of the civic and cultural interests of the women of our Town”—is well-known throughout the community.

At the party, we discussed the many activities we sponsor such as Craft Night, StageWest Ushering, Father's Day Coloring Contest, and Middle School Essay Contest (to name only a few). They were informed of our many projects that support children and families in our neighborhood, such as Breakfast with Santa, Arts & Crafts Fair (Fundraiser for Scholarships), and most importantly, our Holiday Basket and Gift Project for Thanksgiving and Christmas for those less fortunate than ourselves.

Our club takes great pride in its monthly programs which are designed to enrich the lives of the women in our community. Lectures are presented on health, social, and financial issues that affect our everyday lives. Often, we will hold a social meeting just to get to know each other better.

If you wish to join us, we meet on the third Tuesday of every month at the Captain Charles Leonard House at 7:30 p.m. You are always welcome!

The Agawam Junior Women's Club is a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs and the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts.



ATTENDING THE MEMBERSHIP PARTY on February 13th for the Agawam Junior Women's Club included, from left - Ann Woodard, Wilma Gillan, Gayle Lombardini, Theresa Conklin, Laura Sullivan, and Stephanie Bertagnolli. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

“Talent Auction” To Be Featured At Feb. 26th Meeting Of Jr. Women’s Club

The February meeting of the Agawam Women's Club will be held on Monday, February 26th at 7:30 p.m. at the Captain Charles Leonard House on Main Street.

After the business meeting, a Talent Auction

will be held. If time permits, a few games of Bingo will be played.

The Banquet Committee will also be accepting reservations for the annual meeting to be held at The Hofbrauhaus in West Springfield.

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Student & Teacher From Agawam High School Become Members Of Agawam Chamber Board



WENDY PUDLO & DANIEL DUNAISKY

At its January Board meeting, the Directors of the Agawam Chamber of Commerce welcomed their newest members. Bruce Cortis, a senior at Agawam High School, and Tammy Watson, the music coordinator for the Agawam Public Schools and band director at AHS (as well as the co-owner of Topper's Ice Cream), have been invited to join as non-voting members.

The decision to add a student and teacher representative to the Board is one more way the Chamber feels it can support the goals of education. A top-quality school system is important to the community because it is one of the factors new residents take into account when they are evaluating where to relocate. More importantly, a good school system means that our own Agawam students are likely to become tomorrow's community and business leaders.

Having a student and a teacher as board members will offer significant benefits to both the Chamber and Agawam High School by providing opportunities to strengthen the existing School/Business Partnership and by offering leadership opportunities for young adults an unique professional development opportunities for teachers.

Businesses throughout town can show further support of our schools by considering donations of items needed to keep abreast of technological and other changes. Among the specific items on the schools' wish lists are the following:

Refrigerators (two); TV's and VCR's; copier; pottery kiln; up-to-date business calculators; TI 85 graphing calculators; TI 85 overhead calculators; building materials; picnic tables (four); electric fry

pan (two) with cake pans (six) that fit; Micropipettes (.5 ul 10 ul capacity); centrifuge (1,000 g); Gel Electrophoresis units with 150 volt power supply; 7 Map World & US combination map; ancient world history map set; Scan Tron machine; laminator paper; 3D puzzles of literary or historical places; and a donation to the math club for senior awards night.

* COMPUTERS AND RELATED ITEMS:

Computer workstations for the Business Department; any IBM or IBM-compatible Pentium computers; IBM or compatible Pentium computer for teachers' workroom with 100-plus Mhz Processor, 16 MB RAM, mouse, CD-ROM Quad Speed with Sound System, modem, and Internet capabilities; Windows, Microsoft Office, Fax, and Desktop Publishing software; Laser Printer and Scanner; Apple Macintosh Performa Computer 6116CD; additional memory chips for computer hard drives; new switch for hard drive; repairs for existing Laser Jet III printer; replacement monitors; battery backup for File Server; replacement File Server; computer covers; computer tables and chairs; and power strips.

Other areas where businesses might help include contributions to the Renaissance Program that provides incentives and rewards to academically-oriented students who develop a solid work ethic, and the Agawam High Library Foundation, which would welcome donations to supplement its budget for new books, reference materials, and works of fiction.

Businesses interested in considering contributions should contact Rita Ducharme as Chamber coordinator of the effort at 786-0393.

Wendy Pudlo To Wed Daniel Dunaisky

Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Pudlo are very proud to announce the engagement of their daughter, Wendy Teresa Pudlo, to Daniel Joshua Dunaisky, son of Shirley Gordon of Agawam.

The wedding is planned for September 28, 1996 at the Mount Holyoke College Chapel.

The future bride is a graduate of Agawam High School, Mount Holyoke College, and is also attending AIC graduate school. Wendy is currently a counselor at the Hampden County Correctional Center.

The prospective bridegroom is attending Holyoke Community College and is employed by Town Fair Tire Corporation.

Agawam Junior Women's Club Planning Fun-Filled Country Western Night At Turnverein Feb. 24th

The Agawam Junior Women's Club invites you to a fun-filled evening of Country Western dancing featuring the "Broken Spoke" band. Free line dancing instruction will be offered from 8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. prior to the dance.

The event takes place on Saturday, February 24th, at the Springfield Turnverein from 8:00 p.m. until 1:00 a.m. The Turnverein is located at 176 Garden Street in Agawam.

There will be plenty of refreshments. Chili, nachos, and drinks will be on sale. This is one event you don't want to miss! Tickets are obtainable through Donna Shibley. Call 786-3888.

The Agawam Junior Women's Club is a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs and the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts.

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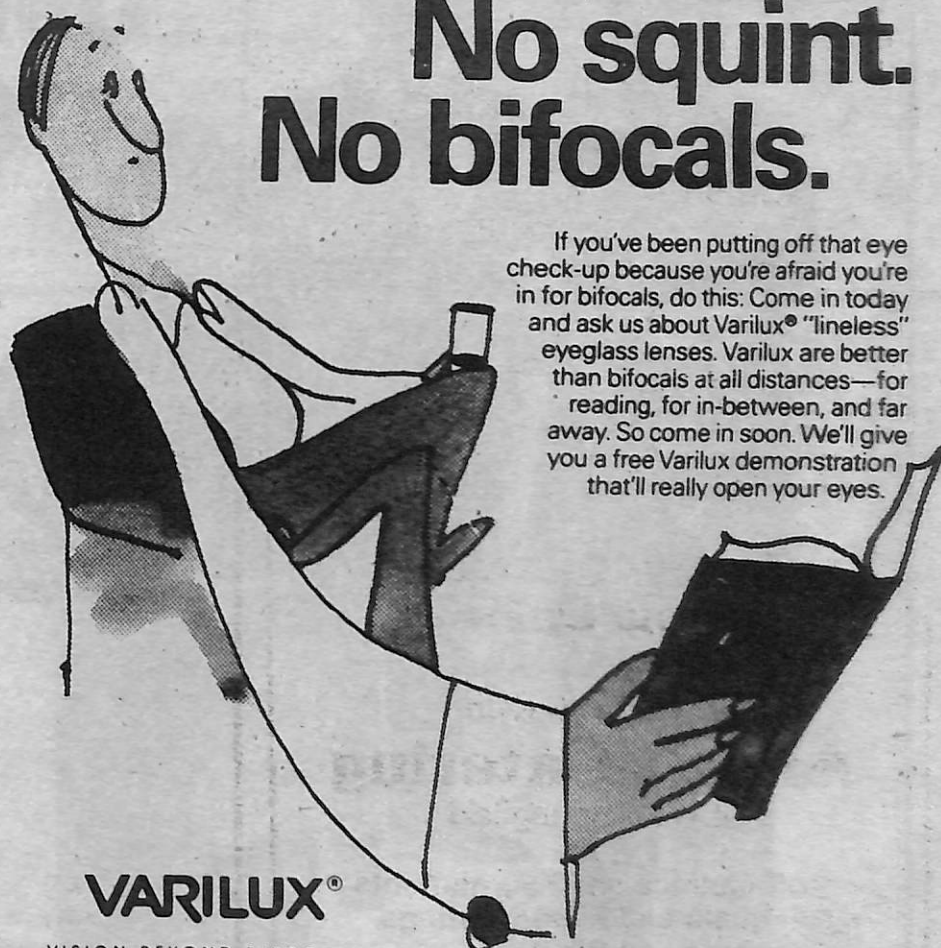
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NANCY 'RAINBOW' SHAER AND LISE J. LEMIEUX will present a gardening program at the Feeding Hills Grange on Wednesday, February 28th.

F. Hills Grange To Host Program On Gardening

GET READY TO GARDEN! keepers of the Earth, create a heavenly garden in harmony with nature. Slide presentation, exciting, inspiring, educational, humorous - about New England hardy perennials, herbs, statuary and more. Presented by Nancy 'Rainbow' Shaer, Master Gardener/Master Herbalist, Author/Illustrator of "Billy Frog Adventures," "N.A. spirituality" cookbook, "Easy & Elegant," and Lise J. Lemieux, Master Gardener, landscape designer (owner of White House Nursery, Southwick).

The presentation will be held at Feeding Hills Grange Home Community Bldg., 47 Northwest St., Feeding Hills on Wednesday, February 28th from 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Refreshments will be served. Registration is suggested due to limited space. Send a check for \$15 to Rainbow NS. and mail to Rainbow NS, P.O. Box 385, Feeding Hills, MA (for information, call 786-5912) or pay at the door.

Come join us for a fun evening! There will be time for questions.

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Agawam/Feeding Hills AARP To Meet On Mon., February 26th

The Agawam/Feeding Hills Chapter 4915 of AARP will hold its regular monthly meeting on February 26th at 1:00 p.m. at the Agawam Senior Center.

The guest speaker will be Dr. Tami Nelson, chiropractic physician. Her topic will be "Health and Fitness: How to Overcome Stress, Relief for Headaches, Neck and Lower Back Pain, and Arthritis."

You can benefit from this lecture if you are suffering from any of the referenced discomforts. We all have some problems for which chiropractic treatment can bring relief.

All members are invited to attend, even if you are not a member of our chapter. Members are urged to bring their friends. Refreshments will be served.

If you have any questions, please call Pauline Paquette, Vice-President, at 786-1866.

Development Screening At Childhood Center

Free Developmental Screening will be held for children (newborn-four years-old) in Fine & Gross Motor Development, Lead Poisoning, Speech & Language, and Growth & Development at the Agawam Early Childhood Center, 108 Perry Lane, Agawam on Friday, March 8, 1996 from 9:00 a.m. till 2:00 p.m.

This FREE DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING is sponsored by the Agawam Public Schools & Infant Toddler Intervention Program.

For an appointment, please call 789-2976 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

Ag. Senior Center's Weekly Lunch Menu

Monday, February 26th: Baked chicken breast, sweet potatoes, peas, oatmeal bread, orange.

Tuesday, February 27th: Beef Burgandy, egg noodles, carrot coins, Canadian oat bread, mixed fruit.

Wednesday, February 28th: French meat pie, mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables, whole wheat bread, pumpkin square.

Thursday, February 29th: Pork Stroganoff, fluffy white rice, tossed salad, pumpernickel bread, applesauce with raisins.

Friday, March 1st: Apple juice, baked macaroni and cheese, stewed tomatoes, rye bread, and canned peaches.

(Menu subject to change without notice.)

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Activities Galore At Heritage Hall Nursing Home



A SING-A-LONG was recently held at Heritage Hall Nursing Home with Jesse Rivers and Libby Campa (photo left); in middle photo, volunteer Bill Blake-Haskins helps Lois Blake Haskins with some decorating; in photo right, Al Payne entertains residents on his banjo. Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.



HERITAGE HALL NURSING HOME resident Margaret Horrigan enjoys this unique style of bowling from her wheelchair. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Fitness First To Again Host 10th Annual Children's Miracle Tourney

Fitness First Family Health and Fitness Center in Feeding Hills is hosting the 10th Annual Children's Miracle Network Racquetball Tournament and Aerobathon during the weekend of March 1st-3rd.

This is the 10th anniversary of the Children's Miracle Network at Baystate Medical Center. Fitness First has raised over \$61,000 for children since owners Kurt and Paula Welker began hosting the event six years ago. The money raised in this area helps pay for the needed equipment, supplies, or program support that is not available through the hospital's budgetary process.

This year's goal is to raise \$15,000 over the weekend between the tournament, Aerobathon, pledges, sponsors, raffle, and sale of balloons. Staff, members, and guests have helped make this a terrific success in the past.

The club is seeking community support in having businesses, clubs, organizations, or individuals participating in some form of the event. Ten-day memberships may also be purchased at the club for a \$5 donation.

If you have an interest, please call the club at 786-1460. Your generosity will be greatly appreciated.

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Important Message To All Republican Primary Voters In Agawam

On Tuesday, March 5th, the Presidential Primary Day, you have an important decision to make. We urge you to vote for **ROBERTA BRUNDRETT** for Republican State Committee Woman for the Hampden Senatorial District. We know Roberta's ability, intelligence, and integrity. We know she will do the job and will do the necessary organizational work to help the Republican Party grow in Agawam and in this region.



Sincerely,
Hon. Christopher Johnson
Mayor of Agawam

Christian M. Quatrone
Agawam City Councilor
Republican Party Chairman
Town of Agawam

Roberta Brundrett
Attorney

Business Owner-Partner:
Brundrett and Moutinho, Springfield
Community Activist
Republican Party Activist

The Cutting Edge Hair & Nail Salon

The staff at The Cutting Edge welcomes Kim Bartorillo, formerly of Unlimited Lengths in Agawam, and would like to welcome her clients to her new location with a February Nail Special.

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Bring a friend!
1st full set - full price
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Aerobic Staff At Fitness First Awarded 1995's Miracle Maker Award By Charity

The Aerobic Staff at Fitness First has been awarded 1995's Miracle Maker Award for the Children's Miracle Network Telethon. This is the second such award the club has received.

Fitness First owners' Kurt and Paula Welker received the same award in 1993. Aerobic Director Laurie Lyman credits the work to her staff.

"Each year," she said, "our entire aerobic staff steps in to lend a hand by participating in the Aerobathon, collecting pledges, and getting our

members to participate. We have a fun and energetic group. It's great teamwork that could not be possible without the help from our members. We are very proud of this award!"

Only a few of these awards are handed out each year. Money raised goes to the Children's Miracle Network at Baystate Medical Hospital.

This year's Aerobathon is Saturday, March 2nd, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. If you would like to participate, please call the club at (413) 786-1460.



TWIN BOYS DANIEL & DYLAN REEL

The Reel Family Announces Birth Of Twin Sons

Kimberlee and Eric Reel of Feeding Hills are proud to announce the birth of their twin sons, Daniel James and Dylan Andrew, on January 17, 1996.

Danny was born at 12:19 p.m. and weighed four pounds, three ounces. Dylan was born at 12:39 p.m. and weighed four pounds, seven ounces.

Welcoming them home was their big brother, Dalton.

The babies' grandparents are Margaret and James Potter of Westfield. The great-grandparents are Sebastian and Doris Petrucci of Agawam.

Agawam Rotary Club Holding Art Auction To Help Kids Charity

The Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children and the Agawam Rotary Club are sponsoring a fundraising art exhibit and auction.

The event will be held on Thursday, February 29th at Storowton Tavern, West Springfield, with preview to begin at 6:00 p.m. All funds are being raised to benefit MSPCC's child abuse and neglect prevention programs in Agawam Public Schools and throughout Western Massachusetts.

Refreshments will be served, and beautiful door prizes will be awarded. This auction is under the direction of Marlin Art, Inc. of Deer Park, New York, featuring art in all media and price ranges.

Happy 16th Birthday, Friend



Love, Timmy & Caitlin
Mom & Dad

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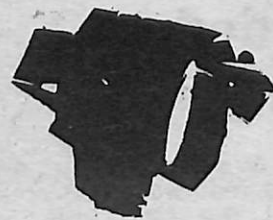
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Spotlight On Business

Carando Foods Gives Gourmet Items To Ag. Senior Center

by Peggy Shoemaker
Advertiser News Feature Writer

Dino Carando, an owner of **Carando Gourmet Foods Corp.** of Agawam and Springfield, is keenly aware of the interaction of family, business, and community. And last week saw him contributing pounds of frozen meat tortellinis to the Agawam Senior Center as a business-community gesture.

Especially at the winter holidays, Carando noted how many organizations were giving gifts of food, clothing, and toys to others and he wanted to do something for the town on behalf of himself and his business.

He telephoned a friend, Town Clerk Richard Theroux, for input and Theroux called Betty Couture, director of the Senior Center Food Program to determine her interest in an appropriate gift from **Carando Foods**.

So recently, Carando presented cartons of meat tortellini to Mrs. Couture for the center and the next day had the pleasure of seeing tortellini soup on the menu, along with meatballs in sauce, chocolate pudding, etc. (and the elderly diners enjoying it). Present were Mayor Christopher C. Johnson, whom Carando said he had never met, and Theroux.

Obviously pleased with the experience, Carando confided that he would like to see more business people and government reaching out to one another for a happier community.

"Sometimes we get so wrapped up with things that we forget the elderly, medical, and education, which should be important to all of us," Carando said in a recent interview. "Business is part of the backbone and life of the community, indispensable to the tax base, and I would like to see residents, administrators, and businesses more attuned to one another, supportive, and welcoming of appropriate new business that would impact the town's good progress."

Carando and his brother, Peter Carando, Jr., are present owners of **Carando Gourmet Foods Corp.** They have another brother, Raymond, who is not in the business. Their father, Peter, Sr., founded the business in 1929 at 500 Worthington Street, Springfield, making mortadella (a fancy baloney) and fresh sausages.

The business grew and eventually moved to Cottage Street, Industrial Park, Springfield. After 25 years, this facility was sold to DeGeorgia of San Francisco and it is presently owned by



DINO CARANDO, an owner of **Carando Gourmet Foods** on Main Street, Agawam, presented cartons of meat and tortellini to the Agawam Senior Center recently. Pictured in the Senior Center kitchen, from left - John Balas, Dino Carando, Mayor Christopher C. Johnson, and Betty Couture, director of the center's Food Program. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Farmland, a large farmers' co-op out of Kansas City.

The Carando family was friends with the Tinti family of Agawam, owners of the former Tinti's Restaurant and Tinti's Food Processing at 175 Main Street, Agawam.

Thinking Ahead

Carando said his father was thinking ahead to the future of his sons in the 1960's when he purchased Tinti's Food processing from Tim Nicoli, a son-in-law of the Tinti family. Peter Sr. had also reopened a facility featuring Italian roast beef at around the same time at the Worthington St. address. Later, he added corned beef and pastrami.

The Agawam facility became the frozen food part of the business, making and packaging frozen foods for restaurants, markets, and institutions.

An addition more than doubled the size of the Main Street plant. Care was taken to make it attractive to the area, Carando said, as he praised his neighboring firms on the Main Street that keep their places looking nice.

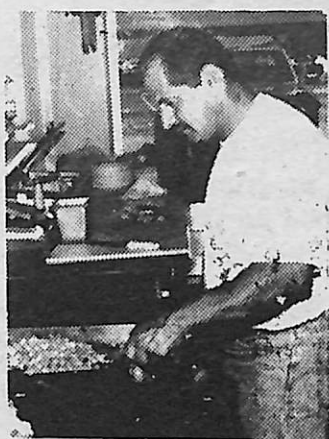
The Carando Gourmet Frozen Foods products

include 12 kinds of sauces entrees ranging from jumbo stuffed shrimp to ziti; prosciutto with sun-dried tomatoes; 19 bulk park items from cheese stuffed shells to lasagna pasta shells; three special club packs; meat tortellini, gourmet meatballs, and cheese tortellini; eight retail packs, ranging from tri-colored tortellini to gourmet meatballs.

Carando admires the aplomb of his late father in handling family and business affairs. He also credits his mother, Angelina, who worked as secretary to the president of U.S. Envelope, but was always supportive of the family business both before and after her husband's death.

Peter Jr. is president of the entire corporation and manages the Springfield plant, and Dino is vice president and manages the Agawam facility. Peter Jr. has four sons. Two of them, Chris and Michael, work in the business. Approximately 30 employees work in each of the two plants.

"Agawam is a beautiful community," Dino declared. "That is part of why we established the Carando Gourmet Frozen Foods Corp. here."



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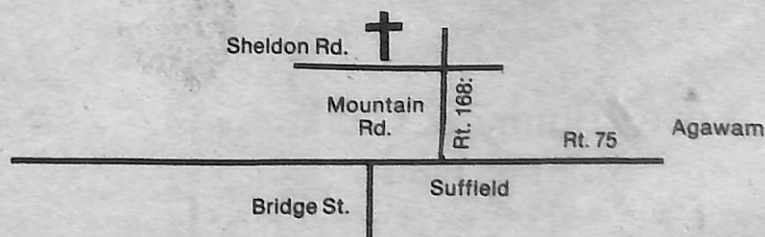
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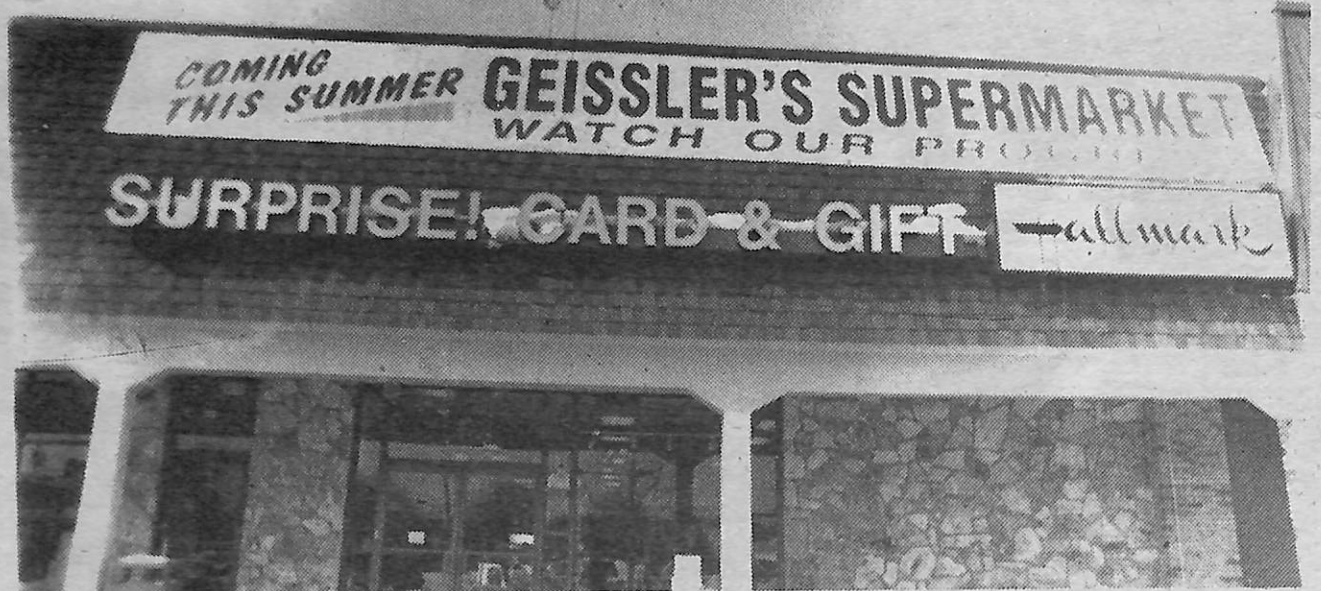


Spotlight On Business - continued...

Supermarket Coming To Southgate Plaza



BRUCE GAGE of McDonald's Restaurant in the Southgate Shopping Plaza says McDonald's officials are delighted that Geissler's Supermarket will be the new anchor tenant in the plaza late this summer. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.



GEISSLER'S SUPERMARKET of Connecticut will be coming into the space once occupied by Big Y Supermarket in the Southgate Shopping Plaza on Suffield Street. The store is scheduled to open late this summer. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

"Job Fair" To Be Held At Riverside Park On Fri., February 23rd

A "Job Fair" is scheduled to take place on Friday, February 23rd, from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Riverside Park's Personnel Training Center, 1623 Main Street (Rte. 159), Agawam.

Over 1,500 positions will be available at the fair, and applicants must be at least 16 years of age. Moreover, applicants can earn up to \$9.25 per hour.

So, come to the "Job Fair" to meet and talk to Riverside's department representatives. For more information, call the Personnel Office at (413) 786-9300, ext. 3329.

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THE LAKE CHURCH**

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Southwick

Blimpie In Feeding Hills Center Joins With Springfield Falcons To Assist Charity

The holidays always bring with them the opportunity of doing things for others. At Blimpie, that essence of community spirit was alive and well as the Feeding Hills Blimpie joined forces with its neighbor store in West Springfield to take part in the festivities at the Springfield Falcons Winter Carnival for Charity.

During December, when we are all so busy with our holiday preparations, both stores took time out from their hectic schedules to run the cookie booth at the carnival.

While the West Springfield Blimpie did the early preparations of baking the cookies, the Feeding Hills Blimpie would supply the personnel to run the booth for the day. In the carnival spirit, there was lots of action. You could try your luck and go one-on-one against a Falcon goalie, or perhaps it was your baseball skill you put to good use at the dunk tank to give your favorite Falcon Hockey player a very wet surprise.

Falcon players were ready and eager to sign

autographs or pose for a photo. When hunger hit you, Blimpie was there with cookies to satisfy your appetite.

The Springfield Falcons Winter Carnival is an annual event put on by the players' wives and girlfriends. Although everyone who came had a great time, the real winners that afternoon were the charities who benefitted from the proceeds raised that day.

Blimpie Subs & Salads and the Springfield Falcons will join forces again to celebrate the 'Wearin O The Green' to kick off the St. Patrick's Day weekend. On Friday, March 15th, the Springfield Falcons will take on Portland.

Blimpie will be on hand that evening to join in the fun. Watch as Blimpie carries in enough six-foot party subs to stretch across center ice. Plan to enjoy the Sub Buffet at center ice after the game that evening.

A donation of \$1 gets you on the ice to feast until the subs are gone. All proceeds go to charity.

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Member: Agawam Board of Health
Former Professor: STCC
Former Clinical Consultant: STCC

Stephen Jacaparo, DMD

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(Hamp'den Koun'te Ki'rə prak'tik)n. [hampden + county, local] [chiro< Gr. *cheir*, the hand + Gr. *praktikos*, practical] 1. Best place to go for friendly, expert health and wellness care. 2. Dr. Nelson's second home.

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Spotlight On Business - continued...

WestBank Opens Another Branch At Edward's



WESTBANK OPENED ANOTHER BRANCH inside the Chicopee store of Edwards Food Warehouse. Pictured at the grand opening ceremonies are, from left - sales associate Leonides Harris, branch sales manager Cathy Myers, branch sales manager James E. Hogan, and Mark Tansy, owner of Partners Restaurant in Feeding Hills who put on a cooking demonstration as part of WestBank's grand opening festivities. RELATED PHOTO ON PAGE 1. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

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is every Tuesday at noon.*

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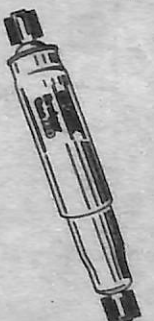
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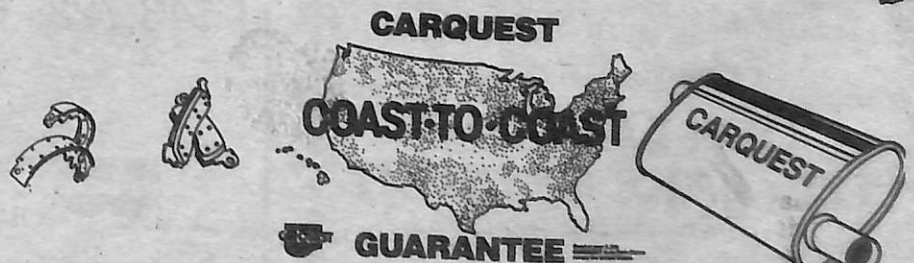
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Church News

Chicken Supper At Valley Community Church



VALLEY COMMUNITY CHURCH held one of its regular chicken suppers on Saturday, February 10th. From left - the Manley kids, Aaron and Donnie enjoy their dinner; next, working hard in the kitchen were Henri Wilett, Linda Orr, and Dot Wells; in photo right, Wanda Hansen takes a spoonful of cranberry sauce before being seated. Advertiser News photo photos by Jack Devine.

News And Notes From F.H. Congregational

You are welcome to join with us at the Feeding Hills Congregational Church, which is located at 21 N. Westfield Street in Feeding Hills.

Sunday School for children and adults begins at 9:00 a.m. Children are then welcome to attend morning worship with their parents at 10:00 a.m.

Rev. Donaldson will preach a sermon entitled "Overcoming Weakness." Nursery care will be provided.

The Sunday School is sponsoring the T Bear Drive, a collection drive for used stuffed animals in good condition. The animals will be offered for adoption to the elderly residents of local nursing homes.

A stuffed animal can be of great comfort to a person who needs a hug. The toys will be cleaned, combed, and supplied with new ribbons, as needed, by the young people in Sunday School.

Please bring your stuffed animals in need of love to the Feeding Hills Congregational Church at 21 N. Westfield Street or call the office at 786-5061.

The Annual Meeting of the church (which was reconvened on Sunday, February 11th) was again adjourned until Sunday, February 25th, following morning worship.

The Christian Education Board will provide a spaghetti luncheon as a fundraiser for the Sunday School. In conjunction with the T Bear Drive, the theme will be a teddy bear's picnic.

The meal will include spaghetti, homemade bread, salad, beverage, and dessert. A donation of \$2.50 for adults and \$1.50 for children is suggested.

The first of six special Lenten programs will begin this Sunday evening, February 25th, at 7:15 p.m. at the Feeding Hills Congregational Church. Programs will continue here on the following two Sundays as well.

Beginning on March 17th, the programs will take place at the Agawam Congregational Church on Main Street. Join us for discussion and meditation on topics such as self and religious doubts, as well as expectations and loneliness.

On the calendar this week:

Sunday, February 25th: 9:00 a.m., Sunday School/Adult Bible Literacy; 11:30 a.m., Christian Ed Spaghetti Luncheon; Annual Meeting resumes; 7:15 p.m., Lenten Series at FHCC.

Monday, February 26th: 5:00 p.m., Girl Scouts.

Tuesday, February 27th: 7:00 p.m., A.A.

Wednesday, February 28th: 2:30 p.m., Girl Scouts; 7:00 p.m., Choir; 7:45 p.m., Cub Scout Committee.

Friday, March 1st: 7:00 p.m., Radio Club.

Ag. & Feeding Hills Congregational Churches To Co-Sponsor Six Special Lenten Programs

The Agawam and Feeding Hills Congregational Churches will co-sponsor six special programs during the Lenten season.

The series will explore such relevant topics as self and religious doubts, changes in relationships, faith in our modern world, inadequacy, expectations, and loneliness. People of all ages are invited to join for discussion, meditation, song, and prayer on Sunday evenings beginning at 7:15 p.m.

The first three meetings will be held on February 25th, March 3rd, and March 10th at the Feeding Hills Congregational Church, 21 North Westfield Street (Route 187), Feeding Hills. The last three meetings will be held on March 17th, March 24th, and March 31st at the Agawam Congregational Church, 745 Main Street, Agawam.

For additional information, contact the Feeding Hills Congregational Church at 786-5061, or the Agawam Congregational Church at 786-7111.

JACK DEVINE needs at least 48 hours notice to cover your events.

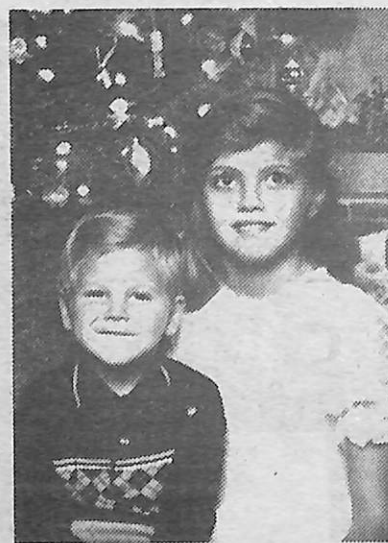
Child Care & Education Options

The Agawam Early Care and Education Partnership for Children Program will provide subsidized early care & education program options for 3 and 4 year-old children. Parent(s) must be working either full-time or part-time and meet eligibility guidelines. Income guidelines are based on the yearly state median income by family size. Examples: family of 2, below \$43,728; family of 4, below \$53,988.

Please call the Preschool Enrichment Team at 736-3900 for information on eligibility and participating programs.

"Happy Birthday"

Isidro - 13
Christy - 18



*Twice the pleasure,
twice the joy...*

Love,
Mom & Dad

The Melconian Message

Winter 1996

A New Day For Hampden County

Dear Friends,

With the election of Senate President Thomas F. Birmingham came many changes in the structure of the Senate, all of which is excellent news for the people of Hampden District.

In early January, I was appointed Senate Assistant Majority Leader. In this new position, I will be able to facilitate action on legislation that is beneficial to our area. Western Massachusetts has often been overlooked in favor of the Eastern half of the Commonwealth. With the new leadership, this is unlikely to continue.

As Assistant Majority Leader, I will advocate for the programs that I championed while chairwoman of the Senate Committee on Science and Technology. Western Massachusetts has a golden opportunity to become the technological center for telecommunications and manufacturing. In today's society, technology means jobs. Whether it be the Massachusetts Center for Telecommunications and Information Technology or the implementation of the single sales factor for manufacturers, I will keep working to create jobs for the Hampden District. The resources and talent are there to be cultivated.

Of course, crime prevention, education, and labor issues remain important issues for our area. I will fight to make our streets safer, improve our schools and provide fair treatment for the men and women in our District. As Assistant Majority Leader, I will join with my fellow Senators to establish policies that benefit the Commonwealth, but more importantly, speak out strongly and forcefully for our region.

Individual constituent problems are always my number one priority. Feel free to contact my office if you think we can help you. I welcome your thoughts and concerns.

With best wishes,



State Senator, Hampden District



Senator Linda Melconian, seen here with Senate President Thomas F. Birmingham, continues to lead the fight for Western Massachusetts.

Job Creation And Economic Development

—In 1995, the top legislative priority remained creating jobs for the Hampden District and Western Massachusetts. The key to achieving this goal: Attract new businesses and promote the area as a center for telecommunications.

1995 Economic Laws Enacted

* A single sales tax structure for all manufacturers and defense contractors and a research and development tax credit for both defense-related and commercial expenditures. The change in the tax structure will create a brighter future for the Commonwealth by revitalizing our manufacturing base, encouraging business to expand their operations within Massachusetts and creating up to 200 jobs for our region.

* Designation of the former Digital site as "The Massachusetts Center for Telecommunications and Information Technology" by the 1994 Transportation Bond Law. The Center, acquired by Springfield Technical Community College, will house operations for telecommunications companies, start-up incubators for telecommunications businesses, and new cable T.V. channels. The goal for the Center is 500-1000 jobs in 18 months. A major coup for the Hampden District, and a real economic boom for the future.

* \$250,000 for the Massachusetts Ventures Corporation in the Pioneer Valley in the fiscal year 1996 budget. This newly formed organization, designed to attract businesses to the area, will pave the way for growing technology-based companies in the region. The outcome of such business development could be the creation of an additional 500 jobs for Hampden and Hampshire counties.



The telecommunications center at STCC will benefit the entire region.



Melconian debates the issues on the Senate floor.

Melconian Spearheads UMass Expansion Effort

The University of Massachusetts will hold several cultural and educational events this year in downtown Springfield. This is a continuation of the growing presence of UMass in the Springfield area. Furthermore, a joint study is being conducted between UMass and the City of Springfield with a view toward offering a program of graduate studies in Springfield.

Melconian is very pleased with the expansion. "It is very exciting to begin to see the fruits of our many efforts in recent months and the continued expansion of the University of Massachusetts in the Springfield area. I think the outreach will benefit the community as well as the University, and I look forward to the launching of many mutually beneficial projects in the future."

Meaningful Welfare/ Minimum Wage Reform

In 1995, the Welfare Reform Act was finally enacted. The plan requires all able-bodied people to work, perform community service or participate in an education or training program. The law also implements strict penalties for fraudulent behavior. A model for the entire nation, the Massachusetts Welfare Reform Act is designed to make welfare a transitional safety net rather than a way of life.

Unavailability of health insurance for minimum wage workers, and the ineligibility for displaced workers to receive unemployment insurance necessitate a livable wage for Massachusetts workers that presents an alternative to life on welfare. The State will raise the minimum wage from \$4.25/hr to \$5.25/hr over the next two years. Women are the primary beneficiary of the increase, since 63% of all minimum wage workers are women.

Legislature Funds Programs for Elderly

The 1996 Budget funded some of the important community-based programs that aid the senior citizens of Hampden County: Home Care programs for over 2300 residents, Managed Care and Housing which provides assisted living arrangements for over 70 seniors and the Councils on Aging, which provides services to over 42,000 seniors in the Hampden District.

It was another very successful year for the Massachusetts Senior Games, held at Springfield College. The Games were supported, in part, by the state, which allocated \$15,000 for the event. Last June the games drew over 1000 participants from 160 towns.



Agawam Notes

* Local aid for the Agawam Public Schools has jumped from \$5,096,178 in the fiscal year 1992 budget (the year before Massachusetts passed education reform) to \$7,116,151 in the current 1996 budget.

* Support for the Western Massachusetts Crime Laboratory in Agawam continues at the level of \$200,000. Located at the Agawam Criminal Justice Training Academy, the Lab will maintain the integrity of evidence and expedite its analysis by providing a local, Western Mass. site for processing evidence essential to successful criminal prosecution.



Linda has been a vocal supporter of the Western Mass. Crime Lab.

* Thanks to the expansion of the Community Policing Grants, Agawam received \$19,914 for the expansion of the Agawam Police Department's foot patrol of the Agawam Shopping Center and the Feeding Hills Center.

* The Open Space Bond Law will provide Agawam with funds to acquire property currently owned by Robert and Ann Hall. This acquisition will protect a wetland area and Perry Lane Park from future development.

* Phase I of Route 57 is finally completed. The Bowles Road Extension will provide easier access to the Agawam Industrial Park.

One of the most important issues in the Commonwealth is the rising cost of health insurance, and the changing means of coverage. In order for me to obtain a better understanding of your health care coverage, as well as your concerns, I invite you to share your thoughts and experiences by answering the following questions:

Age: 18-25 26-33 34-45 46-65 over 65

What is your health plan?

Are you employed?

Does your employer cover health insurance?

Are you married?

Children?

Is your spouse and/or kids covered under your plan?

How satisfied are you with your plan (1 worst, 5 best)?

If and when you changed insurance, were you forced to change doctors?

Have you filed claims?

What was your reaction? _____

Have you been satisfied with the treatment of your claims?

Does your health plan cover prescription drugs?

Are you currently receiving Medicare/Medicaid?

Have you ever been hospitalized?

Were you satisfied with the coverage?

What comments or suggestions do you have regarding health insurance?

Boston Office

Linda J. Melconian
Room 320, State House
Boston, MA 02133
(617) 722-1660
fax: (617) 248-0785

District Office

Linda J. Melconian
375 Walnut Street Extension
Agawam, MA 01001
(413) 786-6033
fax: (413) 786-6092

Church News - continued...



Reflections...

submitted by
Rev. Peter Monahan
 Pastor of the Church
 of the Apostles,
 Suffield, CT
 (860) 668-4444 or
 (413) 786-8735

How many people realize, when they read or hear the Ten Commandments, that in them the tremendous love of God towards all people is wonderfully expressed?

There are some people who have the impression that God does not care about them. Some think that if God does care about them at all, His concern is limited to whether or not they are obeying "the rules," such as the Ten Commandments.

However, that simply is not so. To demonstrate this point, let us hear what Jesus said about the sixth of the Ten Commandments.

"You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not murder,' and 'anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.' But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to his brother, 'Raca,' is answerable to the Sanhedrin. But anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell." (Matthew: 5:21-22)

Notice first of all the grace of God in warning us about the perils of anger. Jesus is not saying, "You will be judged," but rather, "Be cautious! If you are angry with someone, you are liable to get yourself into trouble." This by no means waters down the importance of Jesus' message, but instead clarifies it. The Bible states emphatically and repeatedly that human anger is a very dangerous thing. The guidance of Scripture regarding anger is simple and straightforward: Get rid of it! Jesus' admonition: Be careful!

Every now and then, the Gospel writers heard Jesus use a word or phrase which they chose to record in Aramaic, perhaps to better preserve the sense of it, rather than write it in Greek. Such a word is Raca, which literally means "empty one." Perhaps in our culture we might translate it as "worthless." Raca was certainly an uncomplimentary epithet. Sometimes when people become angry, they think or say the person who provoked the anger is worthless, of little or no value, or even worse.

Jesus also warned against saying, "You fool!" to someone. The Greek word used here is 'moros,' from which we get the word "moron," which is also a very derogatory term. It is worth noting that when God chides people for being foolish, another Greek word is employed; one which describes people who act foolishly out of ignorance.

In Luke's Gospel, God says, "You fool!" to a man who spent his life building an earthly estate while at the same time neglecting eternal matters. In that passage, God Himself does not hurl the insult "Moron!" at that man. Dare we do what God would not do? No wonder Jesus warns us not to!

There is an underlying message in this passage which might not be immediately apparent at first glance. That message is that God places a very high value on people, each and every one. Treating people with contempt is not only wrong, it places the offender in grave danger of the judgment of God. May God bless us to grasp how important each of us is to our Creator, Almighty God. May each of us more fully appreciate how dear and precious our neighbor is to Him also.

Trading Post To Hold Big Sale Feb. 28th

The Trading Post at First Baptist Church, corner of Main & Elm Sts., Agawam, will be holding a "Big Sale" Wednesday, February 28th from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Upstairs, save 50 percent, downstairs save 20 percent. A Bag Sale will be held from 4:00-6:00 p.m. Fill a bag for \$4 (upstairs only).

The sale will feature outstanding buys on stylish stouts, misses, juniors, men's apparel, children's clothing, baby articles, holiday attire, coats, jackets, jerseys, sweaters, blouses, jeans, slacks, skirts, shoes, boots & skates, household items, and knick-knacks.



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Harvest Assembly Of God Hosting Joint Praise Service On Feb. 25th

Pastor Chuck Schivley and the congregation of Harvest Assembly of God will be hosting a joint Praise Service on Sunday, February 25th at 6:00 p.m. Joining together will be Pastor Nathan Daniels and the congregation of the Victory Temple Church of God in Christ located on Main Street in West Springfield.

The service will be a blending of congregational praise, special Gospel music, testimony, and prayer. There will be a dessert fellowship following the service. All are invited and welcome.

Pastor Schivley says, "I believe God is pleased when churches can come together in Christ in the spirit of unity. That was Christ's prayer in John 17 of the Bible. It goes beyond our culture, our race,

our status, and our minor differences. One group of Christian believers is not exclusive to the next; while God works through local congregations, all Christian believers comprise the total body of Christ.

"We are coming together for the purpose of exalting God, proclaiming the Gospel, and prayer for the revival of the church in its mission. Jesus is alive today, and His desire is still to heal lives, to bring forgiveness, and to bring restoration. The church is to be His visible body on this earth."

Harvest Assembly of God is located at 121 Union Street, just around the corner from the I.H.O.P. restaurant in West Springfield. For more information, please call the church at 739-1234.

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WHOLESALE MEATS

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Whole Boneless Top Sirloins \$1.99 Lb.

DELI

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Russer German Bologna \$1.19 Lb.

Russer Virginia Baked Ham \$2.99 Lb.

Russer Low Salt Ham \$3.49 Lb.

Hudson Turkey Pastrami \$1.99 Lb.

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Lean Domestic Ham \$1.39 Lb.

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Sweet Life 1% Low Fat Milk (Gallon) \$1.99

Sweet Life Homogenized Milk (½ Gallon) \$1.09

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PRODUCE

Local Potatoes (5 Lb. Bag) 89¢

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Church News - continued...

Conquering Your Besetting Sin

by Rev. John Parke, Associate Pastor
St. David's Church

What is your worst fault? Is it fear, a smoldering resentment? A flaring temper, impatience? A bad habit uncontrolled - overeating, smoking, gambling? Lying, laziness, infidelity? What is the main thing that keeps you from living your best?

We have just entered the season of Lent (Ash Wednesday, Feb. 21st), the time each year when we recall the 40 days that Jesus spent in the wilderness. He was alone, preparing to start his ministry.

For him, it was a time of deep prayer to the Father, and a time of struggle with temptations from Satan. We, too, face many temptations to think and say and do things that in our heart we know are wrong, and we long, by the grace of God, to conquer evil as Jesus did.

At the end of Psalm 139, we read, "Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts. See if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

Lent is recommended as a special time for soul-searching, repentance, confession, and cleansing. Just as underlying any illness of the body there is usually some central cause of pain and infection, so too in our soul-sickness, there may be some besetting sin that needs to be pinpointed and conquered and healed. What is your worst fault?

Alcoholics Anonymous has offered a time-tested technique that may help you to conquer your own besetting sin - 12 steps:

(1) **Admit** that you are powerless to overcome it - naming the bad habit or sin that is destroying you.

(2) **Believe** that a Power greater than yourself can restore you to health of body and mind. (Remember, "With God all things are possible").

(3) Make a **decision** to turn your will and your life over to the care of God - as you understand Him.

(4) Make a searching and fearless **moral inventory** of yourself.

(5) **Admit** to God, to yourself, and to another person the **exact nature** of your sin, or sins.

(6) Be sincerely ready to have God **remove** all these defects of character.

(7) Humbly **ask Him** to remove your shortcomings. ("Ask, and you shall receive ... believe that you have received it and you shall have it.")

(8) Make a list of all persons you have **harmed**, and become willing to make amends to them all. ("Be reconciled with your brother.")

(9) Make **direct amends** to such people wherever possible. (By word or letter of apology; by restitution).

(10) Continue **each day** to take personal inventory (self-examination) and when consciously wrong, promptly admit it.

(11) Seek, through daily prayer and meditation, to improve your conscious **contact with God**, as you understand Him, praying for knowledge of His will for you and for power to carry it out.

(12) After receiving help from God as a result of taking these steps, you will try to **carry this message** to others in need, and to practice these principles in all your affairs.

Remember - if thousands of alcoholics have been healed in this way, so may you. A besetting sin is like a worm or big bruise in an apple. If it is not cut out in time, it may destroy you. NOW is the time - LENT!! Jesus said, "I am come that you may have life, and have it abundantly." He has shown us the way.

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Lenten Sundays To Begin Feb. 25th At Ag. United Methodist Church

On Sunday, February 25th, worship begins at 9:30 a.m. at Agawam United Methodist Church.

Join our family worship as we begin our Lenten walk. In this period, Christians will observe and experience the meaning and value of the suffering and sacrifice of Christ.

Worship includes the Children's Sermon and Sunday School. We urge you to share with your children the hour of meeting and learning about Christ.

The church offers an opportunity to counteract some of the vicious influences that aim at destroying our youth. Positive programs are most likely when children are given the chance to explore what the church offers.

The women of the church will meet in the Fellowship Hall following refreshments to follow-up on last Sunday's UMW experience.

The newly elected Worship/Evangelism Committee will meet on Thursday, February 29th, at 7:00 p.m.

On Sunday, February 25th, three of our youth will receive their Certificate and God and Country Badge during the worship hour.

You may want to join our congregation in congratulating and wishing them well.

Check our classified pages every week...

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Church News - continued...

Weekly Calendar From
Ag. Congregational

This Sunday, February 25th, at Agawam Congregational Church, 745 Main Street, Agawam, Rev. Fuller's sermon will be "We Need To Acknowledge Our Sins" (Text: Psalm 32). The Children's Message will be "God's Band-Aid."

This Sunday is also Youth Communion for the seventh through 12th grade church school classes. The Communion Service will take place in the Worship Chapel downstairs at 9:30 a.m.

The Helper Project continues through to Sunday, March 24th, when all monies collected will be dedicated.

A "YOUNG AT HEART BRUNCH" will be held following the Worship Service at 12:00 noon for senior citizens. Seniors will be "guests of honor" of the church's youth for this free brunch.

Soup and salad is the main menu, with homemade pies for dessert. Please call the church office at 786-7111 to make your reservation.

An Evening Playgroup will be held on Tuesday evenings from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. for 10 weeks. Sessions will be held on: March 12th, 19th, 26th, April 2nd, 9th, 23rd, 30th (no session on April 16th), May 7th, 14th, and 21st.

A fee will be charged to cover operating expenses. The Playgroup will offer playtime, crafts, snacks, singing and dancing, fun and friendship for children and adults alike.

This Playgroup is limited to 12 families, so sign up now and reserve your place in this most unique group! Call Grace Tilden at the church office (786-7111) for reservations and more information.

Country Line Dancing
Classes Offered At
Ag. Congregational

Kick up your heels and come on down to the Agawam Congregational Church, where "Millie & the Gang" will teach you all of your favorite country dances!

Beginning on March 15th, classes for everyone interested will be held on Friday nights in the Fellowship Hall at the church, 745 Main Street. Dance partners are welcome, but not required. Hard-soled shoes are recommended.

Join us from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. each Friday. The cost is \$20 pre-paid for the five-week session, or \$5 at the door. Refreshments will be available and children care will be provided (at an extra charge), so bring the whole family.

For further information, please call the church office at 786-7111.

**Townfolk turn our
pages every week
ADVERTISER NEWS**

News & Notes From
St. David's ChurchAT THE WEEKEND WORSHIP SERVICES OF
ST. DAVID'S CHURCH:

- The Quiet Eucharist, Saturday at 5:00 p.m.;
- The Traditional Service, Sunday at 8:00 a.m. (both held at the church building, 522 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills);

- The Contemporary Service, Sunday at 10:00 a.m. (at the Agawam Middle School).

The Rector and two other members will be sharing testimonies of their recent experiences at a national clergy conference in Atlanta, Georgia, where 40,000 clergy gathered for three days of teaching and worship.

In addition, this marks the first Sunday in Lent, the season of spiritual preparation for the celebration of Christ's rising from the dead at Easter.

SMALL GROUPS ARE BEING READED FOR LENT, focusing on prayer, study, and fellowship. Those interested in joining such a small group, set to meet for the six weeks of Lent, can contact the Parish Office for registration information.

THE PASTOR WILL LEAD A SMALL GROUP which will meet on Wednesday evenings from 7:00-8:00 p.m., looking at the words of Jesus, "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28).

In these very hectic days, this invitation of Jesus is a welcome relief. Each evening will consist of a brief meditation on some aspect of this verse, followed by a time to quietly rest in the Presence of our Lord.

Those interested in taking part in this Lenten experience, set to begin February 28th, should call the Parish Office to register.

THE JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP, for those in grades five through eight, will meet on Monday, February 26th from 7:00-8:00 p.m. for a time of fun and fellowship, including making plans for the upcoming Talent Show, March 2nd.

Annual Scholarship
Dinner Slated At
Ag. Congregational

The Agawam Congregational Church will hold its Annual Marie & Nick Zucco Scholarship Dinner on Sunday, March 10, 1996, at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

This ziti dinner is sponsored by the Board of Deacons of the church. There is no charge for the dinner; however, donations are requested as this is a fundraiser for scholarships for our graduating seniors.

Entertainment for the evening will be provided by Katie Tolles, a songstress and guitarist.

To make your reservations for this dinner, sign up at the Coffee Hour following Worship Service or call the church office at 786-7111. Reservations will close on Tuesday, March 5th.

ADVERTISER NEWS

Lent Begins At
First Baptist Church

"God's Witnesses" will be the topic of Pastor Richard Barnes' sermon this Sunday, February 25th, as we move into the Lenten season.

The scriptural text will be taken from Acts 1:1-8. As usual, classes will be available for all ages, following coffee and conversation in Davis Hall.

Nursery care is available during morning worship and class time. The deacons will hold their monthly meeting at 7:00 p.m. in Lockhart Parlor.

On our calendar this week:

Tuesday, February 27th: 10:00 a.m., Searchlighters Circle; 1:15 p.m., EZ Does It Aerobics Class; 4:30 p.m., Our people serve at Loaves & Fishes (meals for the homeless); 7:00 p.m., Caring Connection meets.

Wednesday, February 28th: 7:00 a.m., Prayer time/devotions/Continental Breakfast; 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Trading Post Open; 7:00 p.m., Lenten study groups meet ... a) Bible Study group, b) Parenting Seminar, c) Family building class.

Thursday, February 29th: 1:15 p.m., EZ Does It Aerobics Class; 7:30 p.m., Choir Rehearsal.

This Sunday, February 25th, is the deadline for signing up for CARING & SHARING, a new program sponsored by the Caring Connection.

This is a one-year adoption commitment for caring and sharing with another church friend. Plan to participate in this innovative new venture.

Morality Classes Set
To Begin Next Week
At Sacred Heart

Christian Morality Classes will begin next week on Tuesday, February 27th at Sacred Heart Church, 1103 Springfield St., Feeding Hills.

Following is the schedule:

Tuesday, Feb. 27th, 10:00 a.m., Sacred Heart Parish Center; **Thursday, Feb. 29th, 7:00 p.m.,** St. John's Parish Center.

There will be four sessions. All are welcome.

Tuesdays, 10:00 a.m., Sacred Heart (February 27th, March 5th, 12th, 19th); **Thursdays, 7:00 p.m.,** St. John's (February 29th, March 7th, 14th, 21st).

Discussions will be, "Issues of Family Morality," "Important Questions for the 90's," "Learning to Reap Peace by Sowing Justice," "Our Catholic Sacramental Spirituality."

BAPTISM

Please welcome to our parish family Nicole Kristen Roberts, who was recently baptized. Congratulations to her parents and family.

IRISH GALA

Enjoy a wonderful afternoon of Irish music featuring the Shamrocks of Kerry, Sunday, March 3rd from 1:00-5:00 p.m. Enjoy an afternoon of sing-along and Irish dancing at Mont Marie, Holyoke, Mass.

Cost for adults is \$7, and \$3 for children. Refreshments will be available.

Best local news

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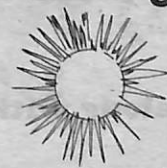
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10 SESSIONS...ONLY \$39!
6 SESSIONS...ONLY \$29!**

CHILDREN'S SPRING SWIM LESSONS!

Fitness First will begin the Spring Session of CHILDREN'S SWIM LESSONS the week of March 9th! Sign up your child today as each class is limited to 12 children! 786-1460
8 Week Sessions are only \$65!

Toddler Swim & Gym (2 - 4 yrs)

Mon. or Fri. 9:15 am

Baby & Me Swim & Gym (6 mos - 2yrs)

Tues. 9:15 am

Preschool Swim & Gym (4 - 6 yrs)

Tues. at 1:00 pm or Thurs. at 9:15 am

Beginner Swim (5 yrs & up)

Wed. or Thurs. 4:30 pm

Advanced Swim

Wed. or Thurs. 5:15 pm

Baby and Me Swim

Sat. 9:00 am

Toddler Swim

Sat. 10:00 am

Preschool Swim

Sat. 11:00 am



**JOIN US FOR THE 10th ANNUAL
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Racquetball Tournament & Aerobathon!

MARCH 1st, 2nd & 3rd

And get a **FREE** 10 day membership pass to Fitness First when you redeem this coupon along with a \$5 minimum donation to the Children's Miracle Network by March 3rd.



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Thank you for your donation to the Children's Miracle Network.

Must be first time trial member and 18 years of age. Appt. required for first visit.

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For Your Health

Brent Bovak-Crocker One Of Featured Kids At Epilepsy Dinner

Six years ago, Brent Bovak-Crocker decided to enter the world three months too early. He weighed in at two pounds, three ounces and was 14 inches long, however, Brent was born to be a fighter.

After three months in the hospital and many setbacks, he came home. Dealing with reflux and being three months delayed were his biggest problems at the time. When Brent was one year-old, he was diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy. His family knew life was going to be difficult, but actually didn't have a clue as to how hard things would get.

Brent was almost two before he had his first seizure, which was called a febrile seizure (caused by a high fever). One month later, after a major surgery, he had his second seizure. Brent cannot be sick with a cold or an ear infection so common in children without developing attacks of multiple seizures.

Brent's seizures range from Grand Mal seizures, which have lasted up to an hour and have landed him in the hospital for a week, to Petite Mal seizures, which last anywhere from 10 seconds to three minutes.

As is the case with all the other children you have met in our series, Brent has tried every anti-epileptic drug available and nothing seems to work. Brent and his family are constantly searching for new ways to try to make life more comfortable and normal.

Please join Brent and all his friends and family at the second Annual Epilepsy Awareness Fundraising Dance being held on March 9, 1996 at the Oaks Banquet Hall. Social hour is 6:00-7:00 p.m. and dinner will be served at 7:00 p.m. Entertainment will be provided by the '50's rock and roll showband, **The Crescents!!!**

For ticket information, call Janet and Gary Shean (786-2709), Sue and Wayne Hearn (789-1529), Diane and Steve Penna (786-9284), or Kathy and Rich Karam (786-5426).



SIX YEAR-OLD Brent Bovak-Crocker will be one of the kids to be honored at the March 9th Annual Epilepsy Awareness Fundraising Dance at The Oaks Banquet Hall on Suffield Street.



Living Well

by Rick Hersom
Fitness Director
Fitness First Health
and Fitness Center
60 N. Westfield St., F.H.
(413) 786-1460

Sleep Tight...

Even though sleep may seem to be the opposite of exercise, sleep is an important part of a well-planned exercise program. Sleep is so important that people who are deprived of it show a deterioration in all aspects of their health.

After a good night rest, we seem to experience a sense of rejuvenation. The amount of rest varies from person to person, but six to eight hours seems to be the average that most adults achieve.

As we get older, the amount of sleep needed decreases. This decrease may be offset by short naps that older people take during the day.

In order to make the most out of your sleep, try some of the following tips:

1. Regular vigorous physical activity promotes sleep, but do not exercise too near to bed time.
2. Limit alcohol, coffee, tea, and soft drink consumption. These beverages disrupt normal sleeping patterns.
3. Leave your problems and concerns at the office.
4. A large meal late at night will interfere with sleeping, but a light snack of foods high in 1-tryptophan (eggs, tuna, turkey) and a glass of milk, will help you fall asleep faster.
5. Quiet imaging can distract the mind, allowing sleep to occur more easily.
6. Slow deep breaths calm the body and mind, facilitating sleep.
7. Following a nightly ritual: reading, listening to music, or taking a bath, are excellent ways to prepare for sleep.

Rest and leisure activities are a very important part of your overall health, so make sure that you build them into your daily schedule.

Stroke Support Group To Meet At Mercy Hosp. On Feb. 26th

The Stroke Support Group, sponsored by the Weldon Center for Rehabilitation at Mercy Hospital in Springfield, will meet on Monday, February 26th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Deliso Conference Center.

The group's free monthly meetings offer information and fellowship for persons who have had a stroke, their families, and friends.

For more information, call Mollie Braverman, (413) 748-6894.

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Muscle Pain Due To Trigger Points

Muscles compose over 50 percent of the body. Often times when I work on the muscles of the body, I'll feel a hard lump within the muscle. This feels similar to a knot in a rope.

This lump is called a "trigger point." Trigger points are a build-up of lactic acid within the muscle belly which result in a hard, contracted muscle. This results in local and referred pain to the muscle group. Trigger points are found throughout the body, the most common areas are the base of the head, between the shoulder blades and the low back and buttock region.

Trigger points are painful to touch, and can cause pain, numbness, and a tingling sensation to other areas of the body. For example, if pressure is applied to a trigger point at the base of the head, it can cause local pain or refer pain up the back of the head, up to the forehead, or behind the eyes.

Trigger points in the mid-back can refer pain up to the neck, to the shoulder, arm, and hand. This happens because the nerves are affected, also.

There are many causes of trigger points, including poor posture, poor body mechanics, stress, lack of stretching prior to activity, repetitious movement, and many others. Trigger points are released by applying mechanical pressure directly to the trigger point for a period of time.

This causes a release of the neurotransmitters and the muscle to fatigue. This also releases lactic acid to the blood stream, which can result in a tired, heavy feeling. It is important after receiving any type of muscle work to drink plenty of fluids to flush out the system.

Dr. Nelson has attended many continuing education seminars and is certified in Trigger Point technique. Besides being a chiropractic physician, she also is a licensed massage therapist. She believes in working with the body as a whole.

She maintains an office at Hampden County Chiropractic, 850 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills. Please call 786-4820 for any further questions.

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For Your Health - continued...

Health Screenings Slated For February 29th At Mercy Hospital

Mercy Hospital in Springfield will conduct cholesterol and blood glucose screenings on Thursday, February 29th, from 8:00 to 10:00 a.m. in the Memorial House Auditorium.

There is a \$10 donation for the cholesterol screening; a \$2 donation is requested for the blood glucose screening. Fasting for 12 hours (water is allowed) prior to testing is required; results will be mailed to participants.

No advance registration is required. For more information, call the Patient Education Department, (413) 748-9024, weekdays between 8:00 and 9:00 a.m., or leave a message.

Balance Disorders & Dizziness Support Group At Mercy Hosp.

The next meeting of the Weldon Center for Rehabilitation's Balance Disorders and Dizziness Support Group is scheduled for Wednesday, February 28th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Deliso Conference Center at Mercy Hospital in Springfield.

Sessions are open to those suffering from balance difficulties and chronic dizziness associated with disorders including Meniere's Disease, Acoustic Neuroma, Perilymph Fistula (PLF), Bilateral Paroxysmal Positional Nystagmus (BPPN), Endolymphatic Hydrops, Trigeminal Neuralgia, and Labyrinthitis.

Family and friends are also welcome. Meetings are conducted on the last Wednesday of each month, and are free of charge.

For more information, call Lois Osetek, M.S., CCC/A, at (413) 748-6840.

*Please be sure to
publicize your event
at least two weeks in
advance. Our dead-
line is each Tuesday
at noon. We open
weekdays at 6:30am*

Family Day Care Provider Needed

The Agawam Early Care and Education Partnership for Children Program is looking for a family day care provider who would like to participate in this program. The program provides early care and education options for three and four year-old children of working parent(s) on a subsidized basis.

Please call Teresa Urbinati at 789-1400, ext. 443, to indicate your interest.

Weekly Cancer Support At Mercy Hospital

Persons with cancer, their families, and friends are invited to take part in Mercy Hospital's new Cancer Support Group.

Sr. Madeleine Joy, S.P., facilitates the free weekly meetings on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Women's Pavilion, 299 Carew Street, Springfield. The group offers information on topics of interest to cancer patients, and an opportunity to share experiences in a warm, supportive atmosphere.

For more information, call the Women's Pavilion, (413) 748-9080.

"Recreation" To Be Topic Of Pulmonary Support Group

"Recreation for Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Diseases" will be discussed at the next meeting of Mercy Hospital's Pulmonary Support Group on Wednesday, February 28th, beginning at 1:00 p.m. in the Deliso Conference Center in Springfield.

The free group, sponsored by the Weldon Center for Rehabilitation at Mercy in conjunction with the American Lung Association, is designed for persons who feel physically or emotionally limited by breathing problems; family and friends are also welcome.

For more information, call Linda Chastain, (413) 748-9610.

Best local news..

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10 Wild pig
14 Rajah's queen
15 Dueling sword
16 Spanish Duke
17 Christmas treats
20 Burden
21 "— Richthofen"
22 "— of a Salesman"
23 Female sandpiper
24 "— at work"
25 College girl
27 Robot drama
28 Evening wear often
29 Body of water
32 Staggering
35 Domesticate
36 Walter's 20%
37 "Old Sod" kissing site
41 Over to a poet
42 Agreement
43 Slim candle
44 Merry month
45 Hope for
46 Embrace
47 Obi
48 Forbid
49 Tennis shot
52 Pays to play
55 Vegas starter
56 Teasdale
57 S.I.W.A.K.
61 French friend
62 Big party (slang)
63 Hands (Italian)
64 Political ones (abbr.)
65 "— and crafts"
66 Pool member

DOWN

- 1 G. Patton's specialty
2 "Pine Tree" state
3 Follow
4 Take home pays
5 Dover's state
6 Wyoming range
7 Second word in fairy tales
8 Spelling event
9 Frightened sound
10 Headquartered
11 Explorer Johnson
12 "Not on —"
13 Headstrong

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LEANER		STRAP		
		MAN'S		PAM'S
				TRA
TACIT		LAMAS		HAD
EVIL		LOREN		LEMA
NET		BOOKS		HAPPY
TRY		RISE		EAVE
		POSED		STANCE
SPRAWL		STE		GOD
LEER		ARETE		FUME
ALOE		NEVER		LIEN
BESS		EGAN		ANTS

- 18 Eternally
19 French idea
24 Ponder over
25 Fiery sky traveler
26 Mind
27 CSA fighting man
28 Hacienda
29 Cease
30 One in Bonn
31 Mimic
32 Power source
33 Actress Perle
34 Outre (var.)
35 Type of bag
38 Sacred bull of Egypt
39 Bedaze
40 Child's game
45 "Able — ere I saw..."
46 Today's food tomorrow
47 Monica of the courts
48 Washing sites
49 Singer Frankie
50 Mr. Welles

- 51 Choir member
52 Urgent shipping instructions
53 Verne's sea captain
54 Thing that wags
55 Shopper's must
56 Old card game
58 T.V. guide abbr.
59 "— and Peace"
60 Morning hours

Check our
classified...

Live Animal Program To Be Presented At Ag. Public Library

Friday, March 1st is the night! Be sure to mark your calendars. This is the night that Laughing Brook is coming to the Agawam Public Library.

The Agawam Cultural Council is pleased and excited to sponsor a live animal program as part of their "First Friday Series." Douglas Kimball, an instructor from Laughing Brook Education Center and Wildlife Sanctuary, will present a natural history program utilizing three species of Southern New England wildlife.

The animals that Mr. Kimball will introduce will depend on which particular animals feel best on the day of this program. You will learn fascinating facts about the animals' behavior, habitats, adaptations, and ecological relationships from Mr. Kimball and the animals. Children will be fascinated and adults will love it.

The program is free to the public and funded by a grant from the Agawam Cultural Council through the Massachusetts Cultural Council. It will be held in the Community Room at the Agawam Public Library on Friday, March 1st, at 7:30 p.m.

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Local Kids Performing In "The Hobbit"



"HOW SHALL WE COOK 'EM" asks female trolls Cara DelloRusso, Megan Banks, Jaime Ericksberg, Renate Kluegh, and Jackie Donahue as poor Sara Sambrook squirms. STAGE Children's Theatre presents the Tolkein classic, "The Hobbit" on February 23rd at 7:30 p.m., Sat., Feb. 24th at 2:00 & 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, Feb. 25th at 2:00 p.m., at the Red Door Theatre on the grounds of Valley Community Church in Feeding Hills. For tickets, call 786-2026.



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Education

School Dept. Receives Daycare Grant To Assist Local Families

by Kathy Cassanelli
News Editor

Working parents will be the beneficiaries of the largest single state grant the School Department has ever received. Agawam's proposal ranked fourth out of the 38 applications considered for the state Community Partnerships for Children Grants.

At the February 10th School Committee meeting, Special Education programmer Teresa Urbinati said the town has been awarded \$212,000 to assist working parents with daycare and preschool costs. The money will be spent to fund daycare and preschool costs for families in the low to middle income brackets for the remainder of this year and next year, Mrs. Urbinati said.

Fees will be on a sliding scale, according to income. The program is designed to help two parent families (with both parents working full- or part-time), and single parent households (with the parent working full- or part-time).

Assistance For The First Time For Many

Mrs. Urbinati said the program is the first to offer assistance to families at or below the state median income of \$50,000. "We'll be able to assist families who have never been assisted before."

Mrs. Urbinati said the partnership is the first time the public schools have worked with private preschools, daycare providers, and social service agencies to develop a plan to meet the educational needs of young children and working parents.

The grant application was prepared by Mrs. Urbinati, Maggie Adams of Westfield Headstart, Julie Belliveau of The Kids Place, and Gina Frasco of Perry Lane Preschool.

In addition to providing assistance with daycare costs for working parents, the grant will fund a library center located at the Headstart Preschool Center in Agawam to serve as a resource for parents, teachers, and children.

The partnership also includes a mental health component that involved the Agawam Counseling Center as a resource for parents and teachers. Staff members will spend two hours a week at each of the four participating centers (Early Childhood Center, Kids Place, Perry Lane Preschool, and Headstart) getting to know the parents and teachers.

"As needs are focused on, we will utilize the Agawam Counseling Center," Mrs. Urbinati said. "We want them to be seen as a resource for parents and teachers who may be having a problem."

Mrs. Urbinati said the School Department is hoping to add a family daycare provider to the program next year. All participating programs must be accredited.

As program coordinator, Mrs. Urbinati will develop the contracts between the School Department and the centers and will be responsible for monitoring the centers.

Parents interested in enrolling in the program can contact Mrs. Urbinati at the School Department's Special Education office (789-1400, ext. 442) or the Preschool Enrichment Team in Springfield, where applications will be screened.

**All the local news
with us, each week**



AGAWAM HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS who are members of the Savings Through Energy Management team (STEM) look over the doors leading into the main lobby during part of their energy audit of the school. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

AHS Receiving Energy Audit Thru \$5,000 Educational Grant

by Kathy Cassanelli
News Editor

For those of us lost in the breakdown lane of the information super highway, "surfing the net" carries a vague sense of wandering around out there in cyberspace—wherever that might be.

But, for the experienced "surfer," the Internet can offer a wealth of information on just about any topic, including sources for educational grants.

Junior High technology teacher John Burns used his surfing expertise to bring in a \$5,000 grant for energy education at the Junior High and Agawam High School.

At AHS, a group of 25 students, along with math teacher Patricia Bertone-Gross and science teacher Michael Kidd, are conducting an energy audit of the school as part of the Savings Through Energy Management (STEM) course presented by Wilson Educational Services of Wallingford, Connecticut.

For five weeks, the STEM team will meet one day a week for an all-day session that focuses on making students aware of energy use and misuse (and preparing an energy conservation/management plan for the school).

Working in teams, the students will gather information on the dimensions of windows and walls, internal structure of the walls, windows and roof, levels of illumination, efficiency, and boilers, and the school's history of energy consumption. The students will learn to recognize energy problems, identify cost-effective solutions, and calculate the amount of energy and money that will be saved by correcting the problems.

AHS Tech-Ed academic coordinator Thomas Collins said the program gave the students hands-on opportunities to use the math skills they were learning in applied math courses and in algebra courses.

"This program is about problem solving," Collins said. "The curriculum frameworks are heading towards more hands-on learning."

The advisor and originator of the school's En-

vironmental Awareness Club (S.A.V.E.), Ms. Bertone-Gross, said she hoped the students learned some basic information on energy conservation to take with them and to use in their daily lives.

"This is like a drop spreading ripples in the water," Ms. Bertone-Gross said. "The program will spread through the students and out into the community."

The Culmination Of The Program...

The program culminates in the presentation of a formal energy audit at a School Committee meeting. It will include the STEM team's recommendations on ways to save on energy costs at the school. On average, schools implementing the STEM team's recommendations have cut their electric bills in half.

Funded under the umbrella of the federally-funded Corporation for National Service, the grant is one of 15 awarded in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut by CONNECT, the Connecticut Energy Council for Teachers, according to project director Clay Jordan.

Jordan said his agency was particularly excited about the grant proposal from Agawam for the creativity with which it was written. He said Agawam's proposal met the benchmarks of CONNECT's commitment to supporting service learning that applies classroom instruction to real situations (and links learning to serving the community in partnership with the business community).

In addition to presenting their energy audit to the community at a School Committee meeting, STEM team members will be bringing the skills they have learned out into the community by working with Junior High students in the After Supper Science Club. An energy fair is being planned at the Junior High in the spring.

Jordan said his agency looks for projects that will involve students in personal growth and development as they learn values and citizenship.

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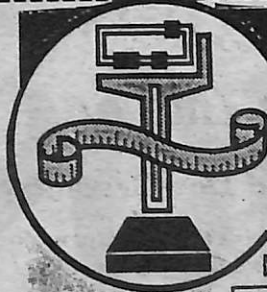
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AHS Guidance...

by Judith Cohen
Acting Director
AHS Guidance Dept.

Over a period of time, a group of students met with me and brainstormed different things they had learned. The results were shared and enlightening.

Read these through; perhaps you can relate to some of them and add some of your own. Please feel free to send in some of them that you and your children come up with and I can include them in another column.

No names will be used. Exercises like this are fun, revealing, and immensely helpful in keeping the lines of communication open.

To all you students who may be reading this column, I hope you are having a happy and healthy vacation.

*** THINGS I'VE LEARNED ***

I've learned that if you want to keep your good friends, you've got to be a good friend.

I've learned that when you try to "see" more than two people at a time, you can get into trouble.

I've learned that lying to someone you really love doesn't get you too far.

I've learned that love hurts when you don't treat it right.

I've learned that a flower grows then soon dies and so doesn't love, so choose it well, but if both are taken care of, they can rebloom.

I've learned that your best friend can also be your worst enemy.

I've learned that the best and most beautiful things cannot be seen or touched but are felt in the heart.

I've learned that if you're too nice and care more about someone else than yourself, then you get stepped on.

I've learned "finally" to love myself.

I learned that friends are more important than romantic involvement—usually.

I have learned to look deeper into things and not take things at face value.

I've learned you can't always get what you want.

I've learned no matter how angry you are at someone, you never stop loving them.

I've learned not to please other people if it's going to hurt you.

I've learned not to criticize people when you have the same problem.

I've learned even though your parents are divorced and blame you for so much, they still love you.

I've learned reality can be a slap in the face.

I've learned not to give up on things.

I've learned that everyone is equal.

I've learned that a winner does more than his job; a loser says, "I only work here."

I've learned when you think someone likes you, don't think too hard on it.

I've learned that determination is the key to success.

I've learned that life is what happens while you're busy making other plans.

I've learned to try to not make the same mistake twice.

I've learned that I'd rather be poor and in love than rich and not in love.

I've learned not to let anyone run my life.

I've learned you can trust others only when you trust yourself.

I've learned that all of us die, but only a few of us ever truly live.

I've learned that maybe a bird views us as being in a cage and he is on the outside.

I've learned that respect goes both ways.

I've learned that there are always at least two sides to an argument.

I've learned that I need someone to follow, who won't lead the way.

I've learned you can make a lifetime out of every day.

I've learned that learning revolves around questions, so don't be afraid to ask.

I've learned not to read advertisements since I would spend all my time wanting things.

I've learned things are seldom what they seem.

I've learned that when you have a choice and don't make it, that in itself is a choice.

I've learned that if you'll regret it in the morning, sleep late!

GUIDANCE BULLETIN

COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES - Congratulations!

Derek Benton, Curry College; **Mike Domalingue**, Keene State; **Eric Johnson**, UMASS/Lowell; **Christy Dubay**, Univ. of New Hampshire; **Jamie Scherban**, Univ. of Connecticut, Merrimack College; **Melissa Murphy**, Roger Williams, Merrimack; **Matthew Radwanski**, Assumption; **Kelly Carmody**, UMASS; **Jen Clark**, College of New Rochelle, UMASS; **Jeff Rousseau**, Northeastern, Endicott, Univ. of Hartford, WNEC; **Dan House**, Hofstra; **Christy Aguinaga**, HCC.

SCHOLARSHIPS - See your counselor for more information.

John C. Quinn, Jr. Scholarship - This \$1,000 scholarship is awarded annually to a minority student who excels in journalism and plans to study journalism in college. Deadline: May 25, 1996.

Boston Guild for the Hard of Hearing Scholarship - \$1,000 will be awarded to a student with a hearing loss who plans to pursue a two- or four-year college education. Deadline: March 29, 1996.

OPEN HOUSES - See your counselor for more information.

Fitchburg State College Nursing Open House - Saturday, March 2nd, 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Lawrence Memorial Hospital School of Nursing - Thursday, March 7th, or Thursday, April 4th, 7:00 p.m.

Maine Maritime Academy - Monday, March 11th, Holiday Inn, Holyoke, 1:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Elms College - March 5th and 6th, Spring Overnight (Tuesday 6:00 p.m. to Wednesday, 1:00 p.m.).



ANNA BIALAS

Anna Bialas Named Artist Of The Month

Picked as outstanding artist for the month of January at Agawam High School by Mrs. Geraldine Ann Schilling-Nordal is Anna Bialas, a sophomore taking Crafts.

She was born in Wroclaw, Poland in 1980 and immigrated to the United States with her family in 1985. She lives with her parents, Elizabeth and Les Bialas, on Cooper Street and is able to walk to school daily.

Anna has two brothers, Andre (22), who is married and has returned to Poland, and Adam (19), who works in the building construction business. She loves to draw, paint, and do projects at home as well as school.

Anna said no one else in her family can draw and she does not know where her desire for art originated. Her favorite subject matter is her boyfriend, Ramon. She has a dog, "Malina" (a beagle), and two fish, all of which were gifts from him. Anna says, "Art is something I've always loved, and I probably always will." She is considering a career in design.

Seventh Grade Artist of the Month is Keegan Clark and Eighth Grade Artist of the Month is Valerie Cross. These names were submitted by Mr. Andrew Kraus and Mrs. Debora Florek of the Agawam Junior High School faculty.

Painting students of Mrs. Schilling-Nordal who received an honorable mention in the *Boston Globe* Scholastic Arts Awards are three sophomores.

They were Tracy Butler for "The Aqua Rimmed Mirror," Tamzeena Hutchinson for "The Watch," and Cheryl Lanier's "Chez Biffy." All three are interested in a career in art.

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Agawam Schools' Weekly Lunch Menu

Monday, February 26th: Cheese-topped pizza, tossed garden salad with spinach greens and creamy dressing, chilled pineapple tidbits, milk.

Tuesday, February 27th: Oven-baked chicken nuggets, seasoned mixed vegetables, honey or mayonnaise, bread & butter, apple crisp with topping, milk.

Wednesday, February 28th: Rotini with meat & spaghetti sauce, creamy coleslaw, garlic bread & butter, fresh orange wedges, milk.

Thursday, February 29th: Pizza burger in roll, steamed rice, seasoned green beans, *fresh Washington apple*, milk.

Friday, March 1st: Grilled cheese sandwich, pickle chips, oven potato puffs with catsup, chocolate wacky cake with vanilla icing or fruit cup, milk.

* **REMINDER:** Elementary lunch is \$1/per day or \$5/per week.

(NOTE: Please remember to purchase your tickets on Mondays for the week. Personal checks are accepted, payable to: The Agawam School Lunch.)

Westfield Vo-Tech Has Evening Adult Education Classes

Registration forms are now available for Westfield Vocational Technical High School's evening adult education classes, which will begin on March 5th.

Program descriptions can be obtained at the school, 33 Smith Avenue, Westfield, and the Westfield Library, 6 Elm Street, Westfield.

Course sizes are limited, so register early. Courses will meet on Tuesday and/or Thursday evenings at 6:30 p.m.

For information on the courses available, call the Westfield Vocational Technical High School at (413) 572-6533.

Ryder Says Problems At Agawam High Being Closely Worked On By Administration

by Kathy Cassanelli
News Editor

At the February 13th meeting of the School Committee, Superintendent of Schools Bernard F. Ryder said not all complaints from parents and community members about problems at the High School are entirely accurate.

Ryder said, "We're trying to correct the problems. We're not perfect, but we're trying to correct the problems ... We invite you to offer your services to us. We need your support."

Ryder spoke of the "Big A of Agawam": Academics first, he said, followed by athletics and the association of school faculty and community members working for the betterment of education in Agawam.

In the near future, an informational evening will be held at the High School for parents to learn more about the positive things going on there, Ryder said.

Ryder said both he and Acting Principal Joseph Zabielski will be on hand to educate the public as to the positive aspects of the High School and to answer questions.

Ryder said committees are working within the School Department to refine the curriculum. This is to ensure that what is being taught in the schools conforms to the education frameworks established by the state as part of Education Reform, and to lengthen the school day in conformity with Education Reform.

"Teachers are coming out of the trenches of contentment and have begun to march to the drum of Education Reform," Ryder said.

Ryder said a positive spirit of success within the School Department is working toward a longer academic day to conform to the requirements of Education Reform.

"We do have problems," Ryder said. "But, we

shouldn't highlight the problems without highlighting our successes. The successes are far more numerous than the problems."

Students Are "Ready To Learn"...

Ryder said the majority of the students are ready to learn and have respect for school property. Ryder called on parents to direct their children in realizing that school facilities must not be abused.

In an earlier interview, Zabielski expressed some frustration at being held accountable for two-year-old test scores on the Massachusetts Educational Assessment Program for 10th graders.

Zabielski said there is a new team of administrators at the High School dedicated to correcting the problems of the past.

School Committee member Louis Massoia said Agawam fared "pretty well" in the 1994 MEAP testing when compared with the seven member communities of the Lower Pioneer Valley Educational Collaborative (LPVEC), of which Agawam is a member.

Massoia said Agawam's fourth graders scored first in reading, math, social studies, and science when compared to the other seven LPVEC districts. Compared to its LPVEC partners, Agawam's eighth graders scored first in science and third in reading, math, and social studies; Agawam's 10th graders scored first in social studies, second in science, and third in reading and math.

In addition to Agawam, the LPVEC member districts are East Longmeadow, Hampden/Wilbraham Regional, Southwick/Tolland Regional, Longmeadow, Ludlow, and West Springfield.

Bay Path College Slates Open House For Sat., March 2nd

Bay Path College will hold an "open house" for prospective students on Saturday, March 2nd, with registration scheduled for 11:30 a.m. and a luncheon and program set to begin at 12:30 p.m.

Guests will learn about the new Bay Path College Scholars Program and the financial aid and scholarships available to them, and receive an overview of academic programs offered at the college, including a question/answer session with the academic deans.

A panel of current Bay Path students will give a presentation, and there will be a review of athletics, clubs, student government, performing arts opportunities, and other co-curricular activities. Also included during the program is time for a campus tour, and a president's reception for students and parents with Bay Path's president, Dr. Carol A. Leary.

Prospective students interested in attending the open house are asked to call the Bay Path Admissions Office at (413) 567-0621 or toll free, 1-800-782-7284.

Katie Wells Named "Student Of Month" At Vo-Tech Center

The Vocational Technical Education Center of Chicopee has announced that Katie Wells of Agawam has received a "Student of the Month" award for January.

Individual students from each program and each session (AM/PM) are recognized for some or all of the following:

- * The ability to apply effectively the skills taught.
- * Exemplary behavior towards other students and staff.
- * An above average willingness to work and accept new work.
- * An outstanding attitude of cooperation.
- * Continued good attendance in the program.
- * A strong desire to contribute to the program and the Voc-Tech Center.

Katie is enrolled in the Fashion Design A.M. Session.

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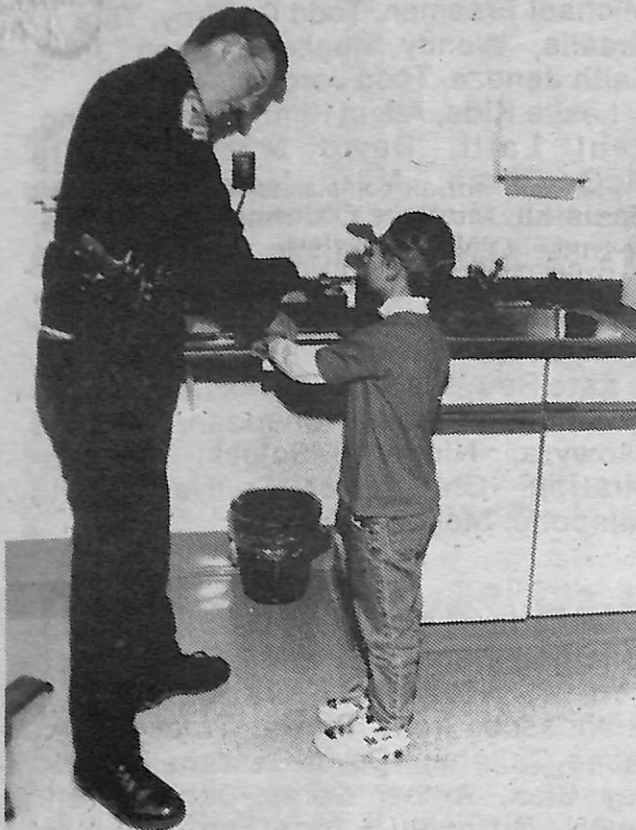
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Tiger Cub Pack 78 Visits Police Station



MEMBERS OF THE AGAWAM TIGER CUB PACK 78 recently paid a visit to the Agawam Police Station and were greeted by Officer Keith Bopko. IN PHOTO LEFT - (back) Donna O'Connor (Den leader) and Officer Bopko. Front row - Dan Smith, Kendrick O'Connor, Joshua Ilnick, Adam Deliefde, Richard Bozanski, and Bradley Johnson. IN PHOTO RIGHT - Officer Bopko fingerprints Tiger Cub Adam Deliefde. Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.



GIRL SCOUTS

THE GIRL SCOUTS

AS GREAT AS YOU WANT TO MAKE IT

Each year during the Christmas Holidays, the Girl Scouts from the Agawam Unit participate in a number of worthwhile Service Projects for the community. The following is a brief summary of the events they were involved with and the Troops who helped make them a success this year:

"Adopt-a-Child" Program:

- * Clark: D. Troop 566, Br. Troop 558
- * Granger: D. Troop 554
- * Middle School: Jr. Troop 556, Jr. Troop 547
- * Phelps: Br. Troop 587, Br. Troop 582, Jr. Troop 557
- * Robinson Park: Jr. Troop 555, Br. Troop 586, Br. Troop 581, D. Troop 559, D. Troop 538

This service project, sponsored by the Agawam Junior Women's Club, involves putting together a Christmas basket for a specific needy child. The basket is filled with games, toys, clothing, and other items that the Girl Scouts purchase themselves with Troop money.

Ornaments for the Giving Tree, nursing home residents, and/or parent:

- * Clark: D. Troop 566 (Ornaments for the Giving Tree), Br. Troop 551 (Ornaments for the Giving Tree), D. Troop 568 (Wooden ornaments for their parents).
- * Phelps: Br. Troop 580 (Made musical ornaments for the residents of Country Estates), Br. Troop 587 (Made photo ornaments for their parents), Br. Troop 582 (The Giving Tree & crafts at Country Estates).
- * Granger: B. Troop 579 (Assorted ornaments for the Giving Tree), Br. Troop 585 (Origami ornaments for the Giving Tree).
- * Jr. High: C. Troop 552
- * Middle School: Jr. Troop 556 (Ornaments with the residents from Heritage Hall for the Giving Tree), Jr. Troop 549 (Made decorations for Heritage Hall North), Jr. Troop 547 (Ornaments for the Giving Tree).
- * Robinson Park: Jr. Troop 555 (Ornaments for the Giving Tree), Br. Troop 581 (Decorated a picture frame with their picture for their parents), Br. Troop 564 (Ornaments for the Giving Tree).

This service project is sponsored by the Milton Bradley Corporation. For each ornament on the Giving Tree, Milton Bradley donates one toy to a needy child.

Wrapping & Delivering Baseball Cards for Gifts:

- * Clark: Br. Troop 584
- * Granger: Br. Troop 542
- * Middle School: Jr. Troop 547, Jr. Troop 549
- * Robinson Park: Jr. Troop 555

This service project involved wrapping packs of donated baseball cards. The cards were distributed to the Shriners Hospital, Brightside, Ronald McDonald House, and a church in Springfield.

Caroling in the community:

- * Clark: D. Troop 566 (at the Giving Tree), Jr. Troop 563 (around Clark School neighborhood).
- * Phelps: Br. Troop 580, Br. Troop 587 (on Main Street).

Cards, Gifts, and/or Visits to the Shriners Hospital:

- * Middle School: Jr. Troop 547
- * Phelps: Jr. Troop 557 together with * Jr. High: C. Troop 544.

For this service project, the Troops made cards for the children in the hospital. Two Troops visited the Shriners Hospital. They delivered the cards they made and gifts. They also sang songs and visited with the children.

Open Pantry Donations:

- * Granger: D. Troop 554
- * Jr. High: C. Troop 552
- * Phelps: Br. Troop 580
- * Robinson Park: Br. Troop 545

This service project involves collecting or purchasing (with Troop funds) non-perishable food items. The items are given to the Open Pantry for their food banks.

Birthday Boards at Heritage Hall Nursing Home:

- * Clark: Br. Troop 558
- * Middle School: Jr. Troop 556
- * Phelps: Br. Troop 583, D. Troop 562

This service project involves decorating the birthday boards. The girls decide on a "theme" and use the names of the residents who are celebrating a birthday that month. The boards are on display in the hallways all month long.

Donations for the M.S.P.C.A.

- * Clark: Br. Troop 558

For this service project, the girls collected old towels and blankets, shoe boxes, paper towel rolls, and other items on the M.S.P.C.A.'s "wish list." The Troop visited the animal shelter on January 30th.

West Springfield Child Program:

- * Jr. High: C. Troop 552

The girls went on a guided tour of the parent-child facilities and learned about how this organization helps give young children and their parents a good start in life. The girls also made and dressed over 20 corn husk dolls for the children. Each doll had a tag explaining the Indian Legend. The dolls were "faceless" as a reminder that no child was better than another. All children are special in their own way. In addition, they brought baskets filled with educational handouts, stickers, ball & cup toys (they made), and food complete with a turkey.

In addition, the following Troops participated in the Soda Tab Collection in 1994-'95 for the Shriners Hospital: Clark Troops 549, 551, 584, and 563; Granger Troops 547, 525, 585, and 540; Jr. High Troop 552; Middle School Troop 543; Phelps Troops 546, 587, and 544 with 557; Robinson Park Troops 555, 581, 545, 586, 539.

A Grand Total of 104 pounds of tabs were collected, in all, for the season.



MARK BRITTAIN

Mark Brittain On Dean's List At Western New England

Mark Brittain has earned a place on the Dean's List for distinguished academic achievement during the fall semester 1995.

The son of Marsha and Paul Brittain, Mark is a freshman at Western New England College majoring in Government and Criminal Justice.

He is a graduate of Agawam High School.

It's Phyllis, Be George!



GRANGER SCHOOL PRINCIPAL PHYLLIS LEWIS promoted the Washington Birthday holiday at the school by dressing in this get-up last Thursday, Feb. 15th. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Miss Agawam 1996 Pageant Looking For Participants

The 9th Annual Miss Agawam Beauty Pageant & Talent Competition, slated for April 1st, at Chez Josef on Shoemaker Lane, is seeking participants in all age categories.

The event is under the director of Lori Andrus Boyle of Feeding Hills, owner and operator of Hollywood Productions.

For information and entry form, please call 732-3411.

Nicole Brittain Makes Dean's List At Mitchell

Nicole Brittain of Feeding Hills has been named to the Dean's List at Mitchell College in New London, Connecticut.

Nicole is majoring in Marine Biology and has achieved a 3.61 grade point average. She is the daughter of Peter and Gail Brittain of Feeding Hills.

Agawam High School's HONOR ROLL

GRADE 12

Alfred Albano, Stephen Bennett, Stephanie Biza, Alan Blake, Kevin Bovat, Nicole Boyer, Kelly Carmody, Alexander Carson, IV, Gina Cincotta, Jennifer Clarke, Nancy Cuccovia, Nicholas Davio, Christian DeBonville, Kirsten DeCoteau, Susan Defillipi, Jason DeGray, Michael Domaingue.

Timothy Drenzek, Christy Dubay, Sabrina Ferrari, Melissa Fleming, Nathan Frailey, Jeffrey Gaylor, Elizabeth Gervais, Jennifer Giroux, Theodore Gontczaruk, Matthew Grych, Karen Hershowitz, John Higgins, III, Courtne Hyland, Eric Johnson, Jennifer Kratovil, Danielle LaBarre, Courtney Limbert.

Carrie Lock, Selena Machia, Andrew Markowski, Christine Mazeika, Kara McDade, David McDougal, Elizabeth McGrew, Nathan Murray, Rosemarie Opedisano, Mary Parrotta, Michael Perry, Erica Pratt, Michael Robinson, Jeffrey Rousseau, Jamie Scherban, Jennifer Seybold, Keith Sidusky.

Jennifer Sparveri, Maryann Spring, Justin Stoddard, Jamie Thomas, Kristin Tierney, Marc Turgeon, Daniel Viens, Erin Ward, Nicole Weinle, Carl Wesley, Jr., Steven Willett, Rebecca Wing, Amy Wisniewski.

GRADE 11

Irina Adzhigirey, Cindi Alfano, Melissa Almquist, Michael Baggetta, Gwendolyn Beaver, Christopher Bednarzyk, Megan Berry, Ann Marie Bianca, Christopher Bitzas, Bethany Bowrys, Amy Bronson, Trevor Brown, Lori Bryskiewicz, Derek Carpenter.

Sharon Chicklas, Eric Clark, Charles Cleveland, Sarah Cote, Melanie DeMastrie, Pamela Eaton, Matthew

Feato, Sarah Fede, Michael Forastiere, Michael Freeman, Todd Godfrey, Tara Grealis, Wendy Hughes, Jason Jean, Keith Jendza, Todd Jorgensen.

Leslie Kida, Adam Kimball, Kevin King, Paul Laill, David Martin, Phillip McGeoghan, Marc Moccio, Karen Nasiatka, Michelle O'Connor, Lori O'Dea, Jeanne O'Neill, Patricia Olson, Diane Parslow, Amy Powell, Jessica Przybyla, Alyson Reid, Stacy Rennell, Rita Reshamwala, Jeffrey Rivers, Christie Ronca.

Kate Rouvellat, Steven Rovithis, Megan Shannon, Thomas Sheridan, Richard Skowrya, Nicholas Solecki, Jennifer Stratton, Christopher Sullivan, Kevin Tampone, Melissa Trole.

GRADE 10

Katherine Anderson, Heidi Benton, Jonathan Bernard, Melissa Berry, Sarah Bonini, Robert Bousquet, Mary Briancesco, Irene Brown, Tracy Butler, Jaime Callahan, David Cassanelli, Geoffrey Ciak, Amber Conte, John Cordis, Kevin Cornwell, Jonathan Couture, James Crowley.

Andrea Davis, Lonnie DeLuca, Jill DeMarco, Joseph DePalma, Alain Dion, Stefanie Domaingue, Sara Drenzek, Aimee Dubay, Kristin Ferguson, Jessica Ferris, Trisha Fiorini, Stephanie Fleming, Seema Gada, Linday Gage, Vanessa Galluzzo, Heather Green.

Shauna Hadden, Jessica Hansen, Julie Heim, Daniel Hendrix, Michele Ingalls, Douglas Janik, Jr., Christina Januska, Shaun Kane, Geoffrey Krapf, Julie LaFlamme, Cheryl Lanier, Karen Lapienski, Tae Geon Lee, Courtney Locke, Jamie Luccardi, Jeffrey Lyman, Raena Major.

Gary Mantolesky, Gina Markowski, Anthony Marsili, Bryan O'Quinn, Kristen Pat-

erson, Ryan Progulske, Brooke Ramah, Eric Robinson, Jennifer Rondinelli, Allison Scherban, Karen Shaw, Elisabeth Shea, Shawn Sherry, Phillip Silva.

Jennifer Smist, Andrew St. Jean, Daryl St. Laurent, John Szymczyk, Angela Tassinari, Bradford Tilden, Paul Tuttle, Ryan White, Jennifer Zerra.

GRADE 9

Diane Abdala, Brett Adamczyk, Matthew Albano, Daniel Balbony, Michelle Beaudette, Pia Bertone-Gross, Michelle Bitgood, Erik Bodurtha, Franca Bonavita, Kimberly Bosini, Danielle Bourdeau, Jessica Briotta, Andrea Cizek, Glenn Corlett, Melissa Crough.

Michael Defillipi, Danielle DeForge, Ann Marie DiMauro, Shaunessy Egan, David Federico, Joseph Fiore, Jason Flood, Christina Gregory, Jason Grimaldi, Erin Hanley, Edward Henry, Larry Hoague, Brian Howes, Heather Hughes, Alison Jackobek, Gregory Jubinville, Evan Konopka, Justin Kratovil.

Paul LaBarre, Antonio Laudati, Robert Liard, Jennifer Loomis, Nicole Macey, Brian Machos, Barbara Maloni, Martha Manning, Diana Marsh, Lisa Marsh, Jennifer McGuire, Leila Mounemneh, Sarah Nacewicz, Dennis Nelson, Jennifer Niedziela, Ronald Ogulewicz.

Amanda Peters, Roberta Przybyla, Erin Rescigno, Nikita Reshamwala, Rebecca Rising, Crystal Rivers, Brian Rondeau, Derek Rose, Shelley Rose, Christopher Rousseau, Robert Santaniello, Mario Santillo, Michael Schmidt, Alicyn Siano, Aaron Skowrya.

Sara Stevenson, David Strole, Emily Tampone, Joyce-Ann Tedone, Laura Tenerowicz, Kara Tierney, Robert Welch, Theresa Wesley, Robert Wrigley, Patricia Zerra.

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Sports

Paro Leads Tide Of AHS Swimmers At WestMass Meet

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

Agawam High boys' swimming Coach Dave Smith has said it many times this season: "We have some quality male and female swimmers in our program. We just don't have the numbers."

That was evident on both the boys' and the girls' sides as they competed in the Western Mass Swim Meet last Sunday at Springfield College.

Of the 11 events involved in the swimming disciplines, Agawam had girls in one championship event—the 200 medley relay. They competed in five consolation events.

The boys participated in the championship rounds of the 200 individual medley, the 100 butterfly, and the 100 breaststroke. They were in the consolation round of the 200 medley relay, and the 200 free relay.

The 200 medley relay saw the Agawam girls in lane 6, which is less than favorable. Rachel Niemiec swam the backstroke. Danielle DeForge handled the breaststroke. The fly fell to Kristine Modzelesky. Bridget Donovan anchored with the freestyle.

The preferred lanes, 2, 3, and 4, went to Taconic, Westfield, and Amherst, respectively. Agawam, fighting the pool edge chop, finished sixth with a time of 2:07:20. Westfield took the top spot.

Modzelesky was in the consolation round of the 200 freestyle. She swam a 2:08:78. That put her 10th in the overall competition in that event.

Niemiec had a place in the 50 free consolations. But her qualifying time of 27.51 saw her in the first lane. She had to fight the waves and finished sixth for a 12th-place overall finish in that event.

Modzelesky, always busy, was in the 100 free consolations. She finished third swimming in the 2 lane. The effort gave her an overall ninth-place slot in that event.

Niemiec, Kelly Robinson, Donovan, and Modzelesky competed in the 200 freestyle relay.

Niemiec was also in the 100 backstroke consolation round. She swam a career best 1:06.75 to finish sixth overall.

The girls will send five swimmers to the state championships this Friday at UMASS Boston: Niemiec, Modzelesky, Robinson, Donovan, and DeForge. The Agawam girls finished 12th in Western Mass with 45 points.

The boys started their competition in the 200 medley relay. Charlie Roberts, Brenden Kilrain, Mike Robinson, and Keith Paro were entered. They came in with a time of 1:54:80. That gave them an overall 10th-place finish in the event.

The championship round of the 200 individual medley saw Robinson and Kilrain go into the water for the Brownies. Robinson had lane 4. Kilrain was stuck in 1. Robinson got off to a fast start. But he was swimming against one of the best in Western Mass, Comp's Jeff Koslorek, who was the 1994 champ in the event. Koslorek has an awesome final kick. He used it early to put distance between himself and Robinson, beating him by four seconds. While Robinson took second with a 2:04:71, Kilrain (battling the outside lane blues) finished fourth at 2:11.

Robinson was up again in the championship round of the 100 fly. His lane designation, number 5, wasn't bad. But his start could have been better. Also, he's more of a distance swimmer in this event than a sprinter. He slowly fell back and back some more, finishing sixth with a time of 59.42, three seconds slower than the winner, Joe McMachon of Holyoke.

They got into the consolation round in the 200 free relay. Unfortunately, they also got into lane 1. Kilrain, Jonathan David, Paro, and Robinson finished sixth in the event with a time of 1:40:78. Their overall finish was 12th.

Kilrain did the Brownies proud in the championship finals of the 100 breaststroke. He came in with the best qualifying time, 1:05:40. That got him lane 3. Right beside him, however, was Comp's Dan McLean. This was a drag race between the two. They were no more than a short arm apart throughout. Both are powerful breaststrokers.

McLean basically won it on the final kick turn off the far wall. He got a scant lead and held Kilrain off down the stretch, winning in a time of 1:05:06 (to Kilrain's second-place clocking of 1:05:78).

Of course, we can't forget the diving, which was held on Saturday. Agawam's irrepressible, jack-of-all swimming trades, Keith Paro, picked up the

SEE AHS SWIMMING - Page 39...



MEMBERS OF THE AGAWAM HIGH SCHOOL boys' varsity ski team and their coach, Glenn Olson, winners of the B Division in Western Mass. for 1995-1996.

Brownie Boys' Skiers Take First-Ever Western Mass. Title

With the completion of their regular season, the Agawam High School Brownie boys' ski team found themselves at the top of the nine team "B" division.

The consistency of the racers proved to be the major factor in their bid for the divisional crown. "They are young, hungry, and eager to learn the sport of alpine skiing," according to Coach Olson. The team this year has been made up of three seniors, B.J. Cortis, Andy Markowski, and Dan Viens; two juniors, Kevin Perreault and Ben Weld.

There is also a lot of talent in the underclassmen with racers such as Steve Charest, Ricky Haglund, Ryan Progulske, Daryl St. Laurent, and Mike Savioli. The program has been pushed forward by freshmen Mike DeFillipi and Rob Santanello.

Once again, Agawam surpassed rival Holyoke and Greenfield by over 14 seconds in the last slalom event on Thursday, January 8th. The Brownies completed the season with 60 points, Holyoke has 54, and Greenfield has 54 points toward the division crown.

Agawam automatically qualifies for the state meet by taking the division. Both Holyoke and Greenfield will share the second placement with a tie at 54 points.

"I did not know how the team would do under the pressure of being on top of their division," said the coach. "It was not easy to top Holyoke

and Greenfield."

The program will enjoy its first "B" division title and is aiming forward to the state meet February 28th at Berkshire East in Charlemont, Mass.

Ryan Progulske once again found the slalom to be his specialty with a time of 42.17, placing him once again in the top 10 of the "B" division. Ben Weld completed his run with a time of 42.32, placing him also in the top 10 of the division.

Kevin Perreault again moved into the top 10 with his time of 43.17. And freshman Mike DeFillipi rounded out the top four of the team with a time of 47.18. B.J. Cortis secured the win with his time of 47.97. Mike Savioli crossed the finish line with a time of 51.92.

Andy Markowski and Steve Charest were claimed victim to equipment failure and did not complete the course. "We are continually trying to work the bugs out so we can continue to improve our placement in Western Massachusetts."

The Junior Varsity is again blasting open new doors in the league with Ricky Haglund's time of 29.95. Rob Santanello and Daryl St. Laurent negotiated the hill to complete their runs with times of 33.06 and 32.63, respectively.

According to the coach, "These athletes are setting the foundation of a program that will continue to grow in Agawam. The improvements have been huge this year and I look forward to the future of the program."

Martin Relieved Of Duties As Agawam High Boys' Hoop Coach

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

On Tuesday, February 13th, the Agawam High boys' basketball team lost a tough one to Longmeadow, 70-64 at Kibbe gym.

After it was over, Coach Mike Martin held his usual post-game post-mortem, addressing the team. Emotions were high. A player, who Martin allegedly belittled at practice a couple of days earlier, decided then to inform his parents of that incident after the Longmeadow game.

Athletic Director Kathleen McSweeney was told about the incident from the parents and looked in to it.

Martin said he was called to a meeting in Ms. McSweeney's office on Wednesday, February 14th. "I was informed of this so-called incident," he said. "Ms. McSweeney explained it to me. Then she went on to say that she'd investigated it and talked to various players about the day in question. She told me that none of them heard me say anything out of order to the player."

Then he added, "She told me I had her support on the matter and everything seemed in order."

Martin said he was getting ready for the Friday, February 16th game against Chicopee Comp, when he was called to another meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday morning, February 15th.

"I assumed it was to meet with the kids' parents," Martin said. I thought it was a good idea. That way we'd be able to clear the air and get to the bottom of things."

What happened wasn't at all what the coach said he was expecting. "When I got there Ms. McSweeney was convivial, but she gave me a choice - resign or be terminated. I was stunned. It was something I'd never expected. I really didn't know what to do."

Out Of A Coaching Job...

Since then, Martin has been out of a coaching job with the Brownies basketball team. He's missed the Comp game and Tuesday night's game vs. Chicopee. The duties are now being handled by junior varsity Coach Gary Eggleston.

Martin was even more shocked by the fact that he never saw anything like this coming. "I've never had any problems with Ms. McSweeney. I was stunned when she didn't want to renew my coaching job last year. She wasn't a big fan of my coaching style, though. But it was nothing personal."

Martin kept his job with the support of Superintendent of Schools Bernard Ryder. This time around, though, things are a little different. When reached for comment, Ryder said he totally supported Coach Martin's dismissal.

"I started in this business at Commerce High School when I was just 24 years-old. I've always coached with a lot of emotion because it got positive results from the kids."

During the years from 1972-1982, he led the Red Raiders to five Western Mass titles.

Martin took over at Agawam in 1985.

The coach feels the unfortunate incident has been poorly timed. "We were going for a spot in the Division One playoffs," he noted. "It's the kids I feel sorry for. They need to focus on that goal."

He has 15 days after becoming aware of the parental complaint to appeal the action taken against him. "You bet I'm going to appeal this," he said. "I did nothing to warrant such actions."

McSweeney said that Martin has been given the opportunity to retire rather than be terminated. She would not offer further comment.

Girls' Ski Team Is Headed For State Championships

The Agawam High girls' ski team has qualified for the State Championships after a very good season. Due to how well they did during the regular season, the girls hope to be competitive at the state level.

On February 13th, the Western Mass Individuals Championships were held at Berkshire East Ski Area in Charlemont. The girls' team was well represented in both disciplines, Slalom and Giant Slalom.

The day started with the Slalom event for the girls, with 168 girls competing for top spots. The girls' results were as follows:

Jody Bulat, D.N.F.; Kelly Grover, 47.21 (21st); Jill Pavelcsyk, 55.04 (39th); Gina Markowski, 60.14 (59th); Meagan Moriarty, 62.40 (66th); Jessica Ferris, 63.21 (68th); Almee Devall, 71.29 (82nd); Bridget Blum, 74.45 (89th); Jen Quigley, D.N.F.; Jen Thibodeau, D.N.F.; Beckie Muttl, D.N.S.; and Angela Tassinari, D.N.F.

The afternoon brought the girls to the Giant Slalom event, also entered by 168 contestants. The results were as follows:

Jody Bulat, 28.10 (10th); Kelly Grover, 29.56 (23rd); Almee Devall, 33.51 (52nd); Jill Pavelcsyk, 33.65 (53rd); Jen Quigley, 33.84 (54th); Jen Thibodeau, 33.84 (54th - tie); Beckie Muttl, 34.39 (63rd); Meagan Moriarty, 34.95 (69th); Jessica Ferris, 35.34 (73rd); Bridget Blum, 35.90 (77th); Gina Markowski, D.N.F.; and Michelle Clauson, D.N.F.

Jody Bulat received a trophy for placing in the top 10 for the Giant Slalom run. This is quite an honor, considering the number of people that entered the race.

The next area of awards is in the best combined time for the day. To be eligible, you must complete both runs of the day, and be in the top 10 combined times.

The following is a list of how the girls placed overall in the league on combined times:

Kelly Grover, 20th; Jill Pavelcsyk, 39th; Meagan Moriarty, 60th; Jessica Ferris, 63rd; Almee Devall, 72nd; and Bridget Blum, 77th.

The final category for awards presented, was that of top 10 for the entire season. These girls placed in the top 10 in division consistently through the season. In this category, the girls did very well: Jody Bulat placed fourth, and Kelly Grover placed sixth. These two girls placed in the top 10 each time they raced this year (that is a terrific accomplishment).

Two years ago at the State Championships, a racer from the girls' team was invited to the New England Championships, the first time ever for the school. This year, there are a couple of racers with the potential to achieve this honor, so let's wish them luck.

Games And Lanes Indoor Soccer Leagues (Standings As Of Feb. 19, 1996)

U-12 BOYS	W	L	T	P
Agawam Dynamos	7	0	0	14
North Branch	5	1	1	11
Westfield	3	3	0	6
Agawam/Hearn	1	4	1	3
Hampshire United	0	7	0	0

U-14 BOYS	W	L	T	P
Berzerkers	6	0	0	12
Tube Products	4	1	1	9
Agawam Express	3	1	0	6
Blue Devils	2	3	1	5
Revolution	1	3	1	3
Agawam Intown	0	3	3	3
Agawam Vipers	0	5	0	0

U-12 GIRLS	W	L	T	P
Berkshire	5	0	0	10
Agawam	3	2	0	6
Longmeadow	1	4	0	2
Holyoke	1	4	0	2

U-17 BOYS	W	L	T	P
HIGH SCHOOL DIVISION				
Holyoke S.C. Green	5	1	0	10
Agawam Juniors	5	1	0	10
Milne El Fuego	3	3	0	6
Agawam Intown	2	3	1	5
Holyoke S.C. Gray	2	3	1	5
Westfield Bombers	0	6	0	0

Chicopee Beats Brownie Hoop To Force Must-Win Vs. Amherst For Tourney Berth

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

Things were looking mighty glum around the Agawam High boys' basketball locker room Tuesday night. They'd just lost to Chicopee, 68-53.

It was, in many ways, a "must win" game because if they had indeed prevailed, they would have made the Western Mass tournament. And they would have done it on Senior Night (Chris Day, Jeff Rousseau, Dave Murphy, and Joe Albano were honored) in front of the hometown folks up at Kibbe gym.

Now, they'll have a "must win" situation Thursday night on the road against tough Amherst, the Valley Wheel top dogs at 15-4 (9-0). A Brownie loss will end the season.

At this writing, Agawam is 9-10 and 4-5 in the Valley Wheel. If they should beat Amherst Thursday night, it will be the first time since the 1992-93 season that they've made the Division I tournament.

(One positive note: last year, they beat Amherst at the end of the year for one of their three wins, so it could happen.)

Even though they'd lost to Chicopee earlier in the season and the Pacers are tournament-bound, Agawam had a good chance in this one. More than once they closed on Chicopee. But then, they saw the Pacers pull away again. "We must have missed six or seven bunnies," Coach Gary Eggleston observed, referring to the missed easy lay-ups. "You can't do that and hope to stay with those guys."

The Pacers started out with a hot hand, hitting their first four field goals in a row, while the Brownies went 1-5. Chicopee led 9-2 with 2:30 gone.

Both teams were playing man-to-man. However, Agawam (which can run against most teams) had trouble getting the track shoes warmed up this night. At 11:28, the Pacers were up 15-6. One reason was the fact that their two high-scoring stars—center Jason Fay (21 points including a three, 4-6 from the line, 13 rebounds, 13 assists) and Mikey Wray (22 points including a three, 3-4, 6 rebounds)—were taking the ball to the hole. Each had 14 points in the first half. That kind of production set Agawam back on its heels a bit.

Chicopee was also doubling up effectively on the Brownie with the ball. Yet, with 3:35 left in the

half, they were only down 20-16 and definitely still in the hunt.

With 10 seconds left in the half, Agawam trailed, 28-23. However, a Wray three-pointer put the Pacers up by eight, ending the first half in their favor, 31-23.

Agawam went 11-24 (45 percent) and 1-5. They had only five turnovers. They managed only seven rebounds.

Chicopee, behind Fay and Wray, shot 13-22 (59 percent) from the field and 3-4 from the line. They had 11 rebounds and eight turnovers.

Brownies Pick Up Tempo in Second Half...

Agawam, realizing the importance of the game and feeling it still had a good chance to win, picked up the tempo in the second half. And for a time, they outpaced the Pacers. The score was 33-31, Chicopee with 2:20 gone.

The score was 36-33, Pacers at the 11:55 mark, when a trey by the Brownies' Nick Dion (3 points, 2 rebounds) tied it up.

However, eight points by Chicopee's Tom Klett on a bucket and then two threes, put his team up 46-38 at 9:44.

Then the Pacers went into a half-court press that seemed to bother the Brownies. But the locals didn't give up. At 7:05, they closed the gap and only trailed, 46-42.

Most of the effort was coming from Todd Jorgensen (12 points, 0-1, 2 rebounds), Brian Menard (9 points including a three, 6 rebounds), and Phil McGeoghan (11 points including 3-5 from the line, 7 rebounds).

But the Pacers started to go underneath again. Fay, who had nine rebounds in the second half, was controlling the boards. Agawam, when they drove, had to contend with him. The result was missed lay-ups. A Fay two put the Pacers up 59-47 with 2:20 left and spelled the beginning of the end for the Brownies.

Agawam shot 12-31 (38 percent) from the field and 4-7 from the stripe. They played basically error-free ball, committing only three turnovers for a game total of eight. They pulled down 16 rebounds.

The Pacers drained 14-28 (50 percent) from the floor and 6-7 (85 percent) from the line. They had six turnovers and 17 boards.

Baywest Kamikazes Continue To Roll After Victories Over Enfield & Nonotuck

The Baywest Kamikazes are surely on their way to the NHL if their winning style keeps up through the playoffs!!

Adam Roy, the team goalie, has adopted a combination style of aerobics and baseball as he rarely lets the opposing teams score. In recent games against Enfield and Nonotuck, Adam handily caught the puck like a catcher pockets the ball in his glove!!

He held the scores at 3-1 and 7-4, respectively. Along with Adam, centers Brandon Reiser and Anthony Bragga have controlled the puck and dominated the seasons scoring with their breakaway techniques weaving in and out of the opposition to bring the puck home to the net.

WTM and Holy Name have felt the wrath of

defensemen Eric Cibrowski, Mike Perron, Mike Peetros, and Mike Dupuis who worked hard to dig out the puck and send it down the boards to keep it in play and keep up the scoring efforts.

To complete the winning combination, forwards Roger Coughlin, Kevin Lang, Travis Schwamb, Mark Suchy, and Chris Nault use their breakaway opportunities taking multiple shots on goal to keep up the team record of 9-5-2.

The kids are doing great, thanks to the solid encouragement and awesome coaching style of Todd Petros, Paul Coughlin, and Anthony Bragga. The three of you set a solid example that all of our "little men" will remember for years to come.

Stay tuned for the playoffs, playdowns, playups, and all that jazz!

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Northampton Poses No Problem For Brownies Girls

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

Agawam High girls' basketball Coach Lou Conte says it's tough for his team to win up in Northampton. Someone should have reminded the Brownies of that last Thursday night, because they had little trouble handing the Blue Devils a 64-41 thrashing.

Agawam went to 13-3 and 8-1 after the game. 'Hamp was still trying for a Western Mass. playoff berth with a record of 9-8, 3-4.

Agawam was led by freshman guard Barbara Maloni (16 points, including 4-6, two rebounds) and sophomore guard Kristen Patterson (14 points, including two threes and 1-2 from the line, 7 rebounds). But all 11 Brownies played and all had a hand in the victory.

Tough Defense On Both Sides

Early on, the game was marked on both sides by tough defense. Agawam, as usual, was in a man-man defense (off of a full court press). 'Hamp, knowing it couldn't match-up, played a 2-1-2 zone.

"They were trying to make us go underneath to score," Conte noted. Well, that's just what Agawam did. Pia Bertone-Gross used her smooth-as-silk turnaround jumper in the paint to score 12 points. She also pulled down four boards. Jamie Thomas refused to be denied beneath the hoop as well. She had six points. She contributed six rebounds.

At the 9:00 mark, Agawam took the lead for good at 10-8. The press was driving the Blue Devils nuts. At the 7:45 mark, the hosts committed three straight turnovers. When they got back into their zone, Agawam was able to pass over it with deadly accuracy. More than once the 'Hamp coaches were screaming, "Hands up!"

It was more like a holdup. The Blue Devil zone, becoming aware of the Brownie scoring muscle down low, began to collapse into itself. That made life out front a little easier for Agawam snipers like Amber Conte (7 points, including 1-2, three rebounds).

The Brownies' frantic pace was taking its toll. Northampton had nine turnovers with four minutes to go. Agawam, facing a halfcourt game, had only two.

The half ended 33-17, Agawam. AHS went 13-31 (including two threes) from the floor and 5-9 from the stripe. They had only four turnovers, which should tell opposing scouts that when the Brownies have a chance to set up, they take full advantage of the opportunity. They outrebounded 'Hamp, but only 17-16.

The Blue Devils hit 6-22 (including 1 three) from the field. They drained 4-10 from the line. Twelve turnovers hurt them.

It was obvious that 'Hamp was going to have to overcome a shyness for shooting if it was going to come back in the second half.

Locals Do What It Takes

Agawam, on the other hand, isn't so reluctant. They'll put it up from the parking lot if that's what it takes. The score stood at 39-20, Agawam, with three minutes gone.

Agawam was attacking the Blue Devil zone in the classic fashion - taking it on down low and up top. After awhile, they had the Devils walking, or running, as it were, on their heels.

For a minute or so, Agawam, up 45-24, went into a 2-3 zone at the 9:59 mark. It put some gas back in their tank and they were back to sprinting. The Brownies were doing all the things a dominating, offense-oriented club has to do: cutting, setting picks, executing the give-and-go, and pick-and-roll. They were running 'Hamp ragged.

As the game wound down, the Brownies, sensing the win, began to freelance. At 3:38, it was 52-33. The Blue Devils tried a press of their own. Not only wasn't it a very good one but it was a full half too late.

As the game wore down, Bertone-Gross, Thomas, Patterson, and junior Lisa Reveruzzi (4 points/3 rebounds) banged the glass for four offensive rebounds as the Devils were thinking about hot showers and a hot meal back at home. The scoreboard said two things with two minutes left, 57-36 Agawam and over!

Agawam went 13-30 and 2-4 from the stripe in the second half. AHS had only four turnovers and 19 rebounds didn't hurt, either.

Northampton 8-26, 9-12 committed only six turnovers. They grabbed 11 boards. In the end, they just couldn't match up.

Sportsmen's Corner

—By Bill Chiba—
1003 No. Westfield St.
F.H., MA 01030



Calling All "Turkeys"!!!

The Massachusetts Turkey Calling Championship will take place this Saturday at the Sportsmen Show at the Eastern States Exposition Grounds. The show hours are Thursday, February 22nd, 3:00 to 10:00 p.m.; Friday, February 23rd, 1:00 to 9:00 p.m.; Saturday, February 24th, 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.; and Sunday, February 25th, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Competition will be in the senior resident, friction, and junior open categories, according to Steve Peperis, president of the Western Massachusetts Longbeards Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation.

Trophies and cash prizes will be awarded, and NWTFF judges will officiate.

Contestants can register at the main office of the Better Living Center of the Eastern States Exposition prior to the 1:00 p.m. contest. The entry fee is \$15.

Trout Unlimited Offers Scholarship

The Pioneer Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited will again offer a full \$400 tuition Allan R. Andrews Memorial Scholarship to the Massachusetts Junior Conservation Camp.

John F. Teahan said the scholarship to the June 30th-July 12th program in Plymouth is to train future conservation leaders in environmental sciences and traditional outdoors skills.

It is available to Hampden County youths ages 14 to 17. Anyone interested should send an essay of approximately 500 words on the subject "Should Protecting Our Natural Resources Be Important For Me?" to Teahan, P.O. Box 1837, Westfield, MA 01086, by April 6th.

State Snaps Up Land

The Division of Fisheries and Wildlife has purchased 427 acres of former campground land in Palmer and Warren for conservation.

The property is said to be one of the most important conservation tracts in the county. The land (225 acres of which lies in Warren and the remaining in the extreme northeast tip of Palmer) was sold by Package Machinery of Somers, Connecticut, for \$200,000.

"Part of the reason for this purchase was that their price was so attractive," said William Steinmetz, the division's Connecticut Valley Wildlife district land agent. The acquisition brings the total land area purchased in Palmer and now owned by the state for conservation purposes to just over 1,100 acres.

Deer Season Sets New Record

Final figures for the 1995 deer hunting season

(from the state Division of Fisheries and Wildlife) report a total of 11,343 deer were taken, making this the most successful season in the Bay State.

There were 63 females to every 100 males taken. The figures show that we have a very healthy herd.

Ask And You Shall Receive...

The Division of Fisheries and Wildlife is looking for comments from sportsmen and has set up a 24-hour answering machine.

Richard Hartely, the division's warm and cool water fishing project leader, said the state's first fishing comments line is part of the 1-800-ASK-FISH network, which provides a variety of services from stocking schedules to the locations of boat landings.

The "comments only" line is checked at least once a week, and appropriate comments are forwarded to the various division personnel.

The line is sponsored by the Sport Fishing Promotion Council, utilizing Wallop Breault funding from the 11% tax on fishing equipment.

DFW Goes "On Line"

Hang onto your "mouse"! Grab your "Web-surfing" board! The DFW has a page on the World Wide Web which will enable Internet explorers to find out about the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, regulations, opportunities, literature, and much more.

Here you will be able to find up-to-date regulations, get a listing of publications, scan state fishing records, read the most recent press releases and the DFW's exciting quarterly publication, *Massachusetts Wildlife*.

Try it out yourself! Visit the Division's pages at <http://www.state.ma.us/dfwele>.

Mass. Enters Boone & Crockett Record Book

The Boone and Crockett Club has issued a third edition of its "Records of North American Whitetail Deer," and for the first time, a Massachusetts deer has been listed.

Each state record (typical and non-typical) is featured with a full-page photograph along with vital statistics about who took it where and when. Vital rack statistics plus date and location of the kill are included for each entry.

Massachusetts is seeing an increase in large healthy deer, and it was just a matter of time until one or more of the state's large bucks was scored for the B & C Records program. The honor goes to Thomas W. Bombard for a buck taken in 1992.

Other states having first-time listings in this edition are Delaware and New Hampshire.

Copies of "Records of North American Whitetails" may be obtained from: The Boone and Crockett Club, 250 Station Drive, Missoula, MT 59801-2753, Tel. (406) 542-1888.

The annual banquet of the Pioneer Valley Boat and Surf Club will be held at the Casa Di Lisa in Agawam on Saturday, March 2, 1996. A family-style meal will be served.

Peter K. will be taking reservations until February 28, 1996. Cocktail hour starts at 6:00 p.m., and dinner will be served promptly at 7:30 p.m.

The club topped the Hartford Surf Club for the Championship Award this year.

Please remember that our deadline is every Tuesday at noontime. Thanks.

SWIMMING - from Page 37...

torch from last year's champ, Tim Church (also from AHS), and became the Western Mass champion for 1996.

The Brownie boys finished the meet in eighth place with 71 points. Comp won it with 196.

The boys will send three competitors to the states: Paro (diving), Robinson (200 I.M. and 500 freestyle) and Kilrain (200 I.M. and 100 breaststroke).

It might also be noted that Coach Smith was honored before the meet with a nice trophy from his peers, in recognition for his 25 years as a swimming coach. He laughed about it.

"Gee, it makes me realize how long I've been around. It's also very nice to be honored by all my friends," he said.

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Brownies Hold-Off Chicopee Charge To Win Shoot-Out, 85-74

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

If you play no defense and just use your considerable athletic ability, sometimes you can win a basketball game. You'll please the crowd for sure. Opposing scouts in the stands, however, will be licking their chops.

Last Saturday afternoon, all those factors danced together as the Agawam High boys' basketball team beat Chicopee Comp for the second time this season, 85-74.

This game was big for the Brownies. They need to win one of their last two games now (at this writing, Chicopee and Amherst) to qualify for the Western Mass. tournament. It had been two of three before this.

At this writing, Agawam is at 9-9 (4-4) and is still in it. The Colts are out to pasture.

Once again, Agawam did what it set out to do at the start of the year - run and press. That meant a nice Agawam transition game. That meant the track meet was on. They were up 9-2 at the 12:31 mark.

It didn't take long for the Colts to catch on. If they didn't get into the footrace, they were going to be embarrassed. Comp Coach Dan Franczek called a time-out at that time. He yelled at his team, "You don't look like you want to play this game!" It wasn't that they didn't. They just couldn't.

At the 10:00 mark, Agawam was up 18-10.

Agawam's junior forward Phil McGeoghan (19 points, including 3 threes, 4-4, 11 rebounds) got the range early on (13 first-half points). He had those 13 with 6:10 to go in the half.

Just Shooting ... No Plan

Comp started to get disorganized when it was 31-16 at the 4:50 mark. They were just shooting, with no plan. Their man-man defense, which they'd employed from the start, was a thing in name only. But then, so wasn't Agawam's as well.

This was run and gun to the 10th degree. Joe Albano (26 points, including 8-9, 8 rebounds) was thriving, as was sixth man Bryan Menard (11 points, including a three, 6 rebounds). And Todd Jorgensen (13 points, including 3 threes) chipped in because he has a taste for high speed. Chris Bitzas (2 points, two rebounds) played his usual snare drum tight defense to complement the scorers.

Comp, after realizing it can't run with the Brownies, decided to try a half court game as the half wound down. The Brownies yanked them right out of it. At 2:34 they were up, 39-24.

The half ended, 46-30, Agawam.

Agawam shot 17-28 with five threes (60 percent) and 4-5 from the line. They had 16 boards and six turnovers.

Comp went 8-22 from the field. They hit 5-12 from the line. They had nine boards. They committed eight turnovers. The story was simple for them for the whole game. Only two guys did anything, Bill Pagel (33 points, including 3-3, 6 rebounds) and Louis Shelton (8 points, 8 rebounds).

Pagel was hungry. He was frustrated. He went to the hole because none of the other Colts could. But to his credit, he tried mightily to bring them back at 12:40. He got five points by himself to make it 53-41.

Albano, cool as a gunfighter, saw this, drove the lane, laid it in and hit the foul shot. He negated Pagel's effort and served notice that AHS wasn't going to let this slip away.

The Colts tried to penetrate when Agawam was up 60-41 at the 11 minute mark. They ran into a top side defense made up of Jorgensen, Jeff Rousseau (7 rebounds), and Albano.

Brownie Faithful Lovin' It

At 7:18 the game became totally undisciplined. The Brownie faithful love it. Agawam, at one point, event went into a 1-3-1 zone.

Comp tried a press. It was a desperation defense. They played it like their feet were glued to the floor.

With 24 seconds left, down 83-73, Comp called a time-out. Why? They were finished.

The Brownies put it up 36 times in the second. They drained 19. They put down 10-15 from the line. They turned it over seven times, not bad for the crazy way they played. They ripped down 27 rebounds.

Comp tossed up 25 shots, of which 10 fell. They hit 10-16 from the line. They only had seven turnovers. But their 10 boards showed they couldn't tough it out.

Listen up! Agawam, in this game, outrebounded Comp, 43-19.

"We took this game too lightly towards the end," Menard commented.

Bitzas noted, "We knew we'd win it." And Dave Murphy admitted, "We shoot it up whenever we can."

Bitzas also made a point. "We have to pick up our defense."

He's right. In the tournament, teams like Central and Holyoke will feed on a dissipated 'D.'

Baywest Hawks Squirts Post Impressive Record Of 11-3-2 In Hockey

The Baywest Hawks Squirts 9-10 hockey team has found the way to win close games and have blown away the competition in others. Starting the season in November with four wins, no losses, and two ties, the Hawks are currently boasting a six game win streak and an impressive 11-3-2 record in the Greater Springfield League.

This past week, they posted wins over Tri-City and WTM, and picked up their third loss of the season to Holy Name, ending a six game win streak.

After falling behind 1-0 to first place Tri-City, Baywest stormed back with two goals. The first goal was scored by Alan Bishop with assists from Tommy Douglas and Mike Alfano. Tommy Douglas scored the go-ahead with help from Shayne Conlon. Tri-City came back to tie the game at 2-2 in the second period.

The battle continued into the third period when Evan Messer blasted in the game winner after receiving a great pass from Alan Bishop. Brian Cronin scored the final goal with a nice individual effort. The 4-2 win boosted the Hawks into a first place tie with Tri-City. Nick Zukowski played a strong game between the pipes.

The Hawks next routed WTM, 7-0 in Enfield, and were led by a three goal "hat trick" from Dave Carr. Davey scored the first and last goals of the first period sandwiched around goals by Alan Bishop and Justin Vanasse added to the lead before Carr finished off the trick. Mark Greene had three assists, Andrew Barnes and Evan Messer had two assists each, while Mike Alfano and Danny Mancini had one apiece. Mike Eggleston played a strong two-way game and Tommy Douglas earned the shutout in goal.

On February 17th, the Hawks took on Holy Name at the Mullins Center in Amherst in a hard fought game both ways. Holy Name snapped the Baywest Hawks' six game win streak by defeating them 3-2 in a 7:00 a.m. contest.

All the Hawks' players have worked very hard on their skating, passing, and shooting skills and their efforts are paying off in the win column. Eight different boys have played in goal and every player has scored a goal.

Coaches John Messer, Art Zukowski, and Dave Vanasse want to congratulate all the players and parents on an unbelievable season so far. Keep up the good work and keep having fun.

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St. A's Take Round 2 In Tri-Parish Bowling

In a titanic struggle, St. Anselm (28 wins) carved out a victory over last place Fordham (12 wins) to take the Round Two title in the Monday night Tri-Parish Bowling League at the Agawam Bowl on February 19th.

St. Louis (26 wins) finished in second place and Catholic University placed third (24 wins).

The St. A's-Fordham battle was inspired by the great rivalry between the brothers Muldrew - "Luscious" LOU MULDREW and "Jollie" OLLIE MULDREW. "Luscious" Lou barely defeated his brother, 343-339. The "Jollie" one finished Round Two as the league leader at 111.15 and "Luscious" Lou was second at 110.53.

But it was the other members of both teams that made this such a memorable match. Other St. A's winners were third roller YVONNE CHARTIER, a top women's roller (315-313 over TERRY CERPOVICZ), and leadoff roller LOU NAPOLITAN (266). The lone winner for Fordham was second roller CORI NAPOLITAN (300, 96.12 in Women's A). Lou Napolitan rolls at an 83.44 clip in Men's C; Yvonne is second in Women's AA at 105.28.

St. Louis was the bye team this week and the scores are as follows: AUDREY PHILLIPS (283), KIM LACROIX (315), and Captain GLEN ADAMS (345).

Catholic University faced eighth place Holy Cross (13½ wins) in the next match. CU had three winners - leadoff TAMMY VOGEL (254, 75.39 in Women's C), MARY THOMAS (308, 98.16 to lead the Women's A), and third roller TOM "Not Tony" CURTIS (314, 103.12 in Women's AA).

In the battle between the captains, HC Captain DEBBIE POIRIER (320) soundly defeated BILLY GRIFFIN (296). Debbie is third in the Open Class at 106.9, while "Wild" Billy Griffin is fourth in Men's AA at 101.30. Also rolling well for HC was SUE GRIFFIN (300).

Fourth place Boston College (23 wins) battled sixth place Notre Dame (20 wins). And it was ND who got the best of this match. ND winners were leadoff DAVID THOMAS (273-267 over BRIAN O'QUINN), DON "Don't Sit On" STITT (321, leader in Men's A at 99.47), and Captain FLO ROCHFORD, a 317-312 winner over "Jungle" JIM MCCORMICK. Flo is the leader in Women's AA at 106.48 while "Jungle" is second in Men's AA at 103.22.

The only BC winner was second roller DAVID ALDRICH (278, leader in Men's C at 86.50).

In the final match of the night, seventh place St. Mary's (17½ wins) came up against fifth place St. Michael's (21 wins). And for St. Mike's, it was a clean sweep. Winners were leadoff JEAN BUONICONTI (283, 94.14 in Women's AA), VI MASSOIA (284, 93.29 in Women's A), S. "THE MAD STORK" STORK (301), and anchorman JERRY ALLEN (342, 110.11 in the Unclassified category). St. Mary's Captain JOHN LONCRINI hit a 332 in a losing effort to J. Allen. Loncrini is fifth in Men's AA at 99.5.

Even Without Ingham, Brownies Take 4th At State Mat Meet

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

Agawam finished fourth in the just-held state wrestling championships last weekend. They were the defending state champs. They are the current Western Mass. champs (for the 10th straight year).

"No, I wasn't disappointed at all by our showing in the states," Brownie wrestling Coach Phil Tomkiel said. "Remember, it's tough enough to repeat at such a high level. And we lost 10 kids from last year's team."

He added, "We went into the Western Mass. tournament with nine kids who'd never been there before."

Agawam's great wrestling tradition wasn't lost on the people who ran the event. They awarded a Hall of Fame trophy to the Ingham family for their contributions to Massachusetts interscholastic wrestling. AHS senior Andrew Ingham accepted it. You might remember that Andrew broke his back earlier this year wrestling in Brockton (the site of this year's championships). He was the defending state champ in the 171-pound class.

The irony of the moment wasn't lost on Tomkiel. "Think about it," he said. "Andrew specializes in pins. The 171's this year was without Andrew and wasn't the strongest of divisions. Lowell won the state crown with 123 pounds. Do you follow me?"

We did. Agawam had 100 points. An Ingham pin, which was completely possible, would have meant 30 points. Add it up.

Good Reason To Hold Heads High

"I told the kids that with Andrew, we are still the state champions. So they should all hold their heads high."

And they should. They had one second place finish (Jon Jacobsen in the 189's), two thirds (Jim McKay, 103's, Dave Malachowski, 215's), one fourth (Chris Chechile, 125's), and two fifths (Justin Aldridge, 112's, Jason Jean, 140's).

Tomkiel also singled out junior (152-pounder) Jeff Blews and 135-pound senior Eric Johnson. "They were very good. Both of them got to the final eight."

He was mildly surprised that Jacobsen didn't retain his state title. "He seemed a little rushed. Many of his classic moves came when he was out of bounds. But, as we all know, repeating such a feat is tough."

With so many good wrestlers gone from the squad, to be replaced by talented but inexperienced ones, did they wrestle better because Ingham wasn't there?

"That's hard to tell," Coach Tomkiel noted. "We are so team oriented that they all tend to feed off each other. If the guy in front of you does well, you want to do the same thing. If he doesn't, you want to do well to pick up the slack. And if someone like Andrew is hurt, maybe the level is raised. But, it should tell them that they have the fire to do the job."

The future is bright for Agawam wrestling. While they'll lose guys like Jacobsen, Ingham, Aldridge, and Chechile, guys like McKay, Malachowski, and Blews, all on the threshold, are ready to step in.

Agawam still has the All-States to attend this weekend at Franklin High School. Then there is the New England tournament at Roger Williams College.

Swim Team Banquet To Be Held Thursday, March 7th At Polish Club

The Agawam Piranhas swim team winter banquet has been scheduled for Thursday evening, March 7th, beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Polish American Club in Feeding Hills.

The cost is \$2 per person and can be collected

at the door.

For more information, call Mary Stepanian, 789-3459; Deb Golas, 786-9592; Martha Morytko, 786-4301; or Lynne O'Brien, 789-1873, by March 1st.

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Open Monday to Thursday
7:00 A.M. - Midnight
7:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. On Friday



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Myrtle Beach, South Carolina 29572
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Res. (803) 399-0305

Jack Shaughnessy
Formerly Of Agawam



Each Office Is Independently Owned & Operated



Classified

SERVICES

SNOWPLOWING: Residential/commercial. Also, snowblowing for walkways and hard-to-reach areas. Free estimates. Call 789-9556. Hall Snowplowing Service.

HALL SERVICES: Cleaning service—cellars/garage, window/house cleaning. Call 789-9556.

READY • SET • GROW! Family Day Care. Experienced teacher of children with special needs has immediate openings. Pre-school curriculum. Large fenced back yard and reasonable rates. FA/CPR certified. Granger School District. Call Sue at 789-2530. License no. 91897.

CARPENTRY SERVICES: Additions & remodeling, family rooms, cellars, kitchens & baths, Florida rooms & screen porches, decks & replacement windows, wood siding & sheds. 25 yrs. exp. Fully insured & references. No job too small. Call George Bernier, 786-8452.

BILL SPEAR FORESTRY SERVICES: Complete tree removal, trimming. Land cleared. Senior citizen discount. FREE ESTIMATES. Fully insured. Call 786-5081.

APPLIANCE AND REFRIGERATOR REPAIR: Mr. Service. Fast, competitive prices. One call does it all. Your hometown repairman. Call (413) 789-1883.

DAVID'S WINDOW CLEANING AND JANITORIAL
Mother's Little Helper! Floors waxed, rugs shampooed, walls washed. Commercial and residential. Call Paul Ferrarini, (413) 786-4436.

NORTHEAST BUILDERS: Custom homes & remodeling (since 1975). Fully insured & licensed. Rick Pfeiffer, 4 Lenox St., Feeding Hills, MA 01030. Reg. No. 116963; Const. Sup. No. 000450. (413) 789-1150.

BANQUET FACILITY NOW OPEN at picturesque St. Anne's Country Club in Feeding Hills, exclusively with Anne's Catering of West Springfield. All-occasion banquet room with seating up to 200 people. Wedding packages available. Call Anne's Catering at 736-8388.

S.D. SERVICES: Property and yard clean-up. All unwanted items removed promptly and courteously. Loam/sand/stone delivered. Free est./insured. 789-9721.

FAMILY DAY CARE: Full-time, nutritious meals and snacks, large play room and yard, reading, arts, music, exercise, age-appropriate activities tailored to individual's requirements. References available. Linda, 789-0881. License no. 171137.

RENOVATIONS: Water damage, remodeling, drywall, decks. No job too small. Quick, clean, professional. Free estimates. Thomas Beau-lieu, (413) 569-3936. Call any time. Will return call promptly.

AGAWAM AREA—FAMILY DAYCARE: A warm and friendly family Daycare has openings. CPR/FA certified. Flexible hours/reasonable rates. References. License no. 175320. Call Donna, 789-4162.

PAUL'S TREE SERVICE: Removal, pruning, planting, stump grinding, lot clearing, trimming hedges, cabling and bracing, lightning protection. Neat clean-up (no mess left). Call Paul Cocchi, 733-7520.

PRIVATE COMPUTER LESSONS: Mornings for beginners & intermediates on IBM compatible using the most popular software programs. Instructor has much patience & understanding. Call Faith, 786-2262.

CARPENTER: Small jobs to custom homes. Honest work at today's prices. Senior discounts and free estimates. Call Stephen Gould, 786-6887.

TAX RETURN PREPARATION: Individuals & businesses. Weekends & evening appts. available. Call early. Christine A. Rice, CPA, 786-9228.

LOSE WEIGHT ... FEEL GREAT! Lose 5-100 lbs. on New Approved Weight Loss Program. It Really Works! Safe, Fast, Natural, Effective. Call for FREE SAMPLES ... YOU CAN QUIT SMOKING IN 7 DAYS GUARANTEED! All Natural, Herbal Capsules & Aroma Therapy. Nature's Solution, 741-8600. In MA Call 800-738-8907. "Independent Shaperite Distributor."

SNOWPLOWING: Tom's Diversified Services - Providing carpentry, roofing, window replacement, masonry, repairs, cleaning of cellars, garages, attics, etc. ... A to Z. Senior citizen discount. Call Tom Brusio, 569-0728, for your free estimate and complete satisfaction.

WANTED

HELP WANTED: Earn up to \$500 per week assembling products at home. No experience. INFO 1-504-646-1700 DEPT. MA-1216

WANTED: Mature and reliable caregiver wanted in my home for our cheerful 3 year-old daughter and 5 year-old son. Daily 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Competitive salary for the right person. Experience with children and non-smoker required. References a must. Call 739-5031 for more information.

WANTED: Grandmothers/mature responsible person wanted for occasional babysitting for large family. A love of children a must. Ages from 6 mos. and up. \$6.50 per hour. Call Patricia, 786-6868, for interview.

HELP WANTED: Pre-school teacher for child care center; position open immediately through May 1996. Monday—Friday 8-3. Must be OFC qualified. Call Deb at 733-9547 or send resume to The Kids' Place, P.O. Box 606, Wilbraham, MA 01095. EOE.

FOR SALE

HOUSE FOR SALE: Southwick—8 Room Contemporary on 1.4 acres of serenity. Peaceful area, lots of glass. 2 fireplaces, 3-plus bdrms, 3 car gar & ingd pool. \$155,000. By owner. 569-3985.

FOR SALE: Black powder Dixy gun. .45 cal., rifled barrel long gun. New \$180.00; asking \$100.00. (413) 786-4926 eve. after 6:00.

FOR SALE: Browning Stalker 60-70 lb., 4 pully compound w/Cobra pin sights & 6 arrow bow quiver. New \$375.00. Excellent to new cond. \$125.00 firm. (413) 786-4926 eve. after 6:00.

PERSONAL LOST

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved, and preserved, now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us. Sacred Heart, help of the hopeless, pray for us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. Say this prayer nine times a day. It has never been known to fail. Publication must be promised. Thank-you St. Jude for granting my petition.

RS

THANK YOU
ST. JUDE.

For prayers answered & favors granted.

NIB

THANK YOU
Sacred Heart of Jesus
and St. Jude

M.A.L.

THANK YOU
Blessed Mother Mary
and St. Anthony

M.A.L.

LOST CAT: Friday, 2-16-96. Denise Ln., Barry St., Southwest St. area in F. Hills. Tabby color, gold eyes, de-clawed, spayed, no collar. Indoor cat. Sadly missed. If found, please call 789-3216.

FLEA MARKET

AGAWAM ALL-MART FLEA MARKET: Rte. 75 (behind McDonald's). Sat. & Sun., 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Largest indoor flea market in New England!

TAG SALE

INDOOR TAG SALE: Everything must go—washer, dryer, furniture. Sat., Feb. 24th, 9-4. 36 Franklin St., Feeding Hills, MA.

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Our Hobby is Family Camping. Our Bank is Hampden Savings.

The Rivera family:
Luis, Jeanette,
Christina, and Lianette.
Jeanette is employed
by Baystate Medical
Center. Luis A. Rivera
is owner and operator
of J & L Home
Improvements
in Springfield.



"Camping is great for my whole family. Jeanette and I find that our best times are the weekends we spend tenting on the Rhode Island shore. We enjoy the feeling of living outdoors every time we set up our weekend home in our 12' x 12' dome tent.

Buying a dome tent and a real home are different matters, especially when the family business is located there. I found my bank became real important.

I tried three of the big banks before

Hampden Savings was recommended to me. From the start, I had a great experience—really good people, quick answers—my mortgage went smoothly. I next financed a business expansion.

In time, I've transferred all my business and personal banking to Hampden. My daughters have their first savings accounts there.

Stability and spending time on the right things are key to my family's success. You could say the same about our bank."

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